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BLOOD AND STEEL

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Blood and Steel 61

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TONG LI COMICS
12
狼派武俠漫畫
主編 葉偉青
東立

「真正擁有共同志向的同伴，一個就夠了。如今，又多了一個。」

武當派在西安許下五年「不戰之約」，荊裂和燕橫頓失去討伐對象，與虎玲蘭及童靜繼續踏上武道修練之旅；崆峒掌門練飛虹決心要收童靜為衣缽傳人，亦加入跟隨。

佔領峨嵋山的葉辰淵，以何自聖一戰為生涯高峰，本已斷絕武道上求進之念，卻意外尋得青城劍術的奧祕，戰志重燃！

帶技投師的侯英志入門短淺，但掌門姚蓮舟回歸後即馬上召見他，有何原因？

狼派武俠漫畫．第二部
【破門六劍篇】
新的修行之旅．起步！

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四方武林群豪，為對付武當掌門姚蓮舟激戰西安城；荊裂、燕橫、童靜與虎玲蘭四人，於「盈花館」屋頂惡鬥錫曉巖為首之武當精銳，苦戰中童靜一劍「追形截脈」扭轉形勢，加上崆峒掌門綵飛虹在重要關頭出手相助，荊裂等人最終險勝！

姚蓮舟許下五年「不戰之約」，武當與天下各派的鬥爭暫時休止，燕橫與同伴亦只好展開另一階段的修行旅程……

喬靖夫的話

我是西部片迷，喜歡看黃沙萬里、槍客在空寂大地上馳騁的畫面，因此也把這種感覺寫在武俠裡。《武道狂》裡有很多主角群一起遊歷的情節，其實有很重要的意義，代表了「自由」與「友情」。

葉偉青的話

這一卷我專注在不同人物的描寫，節奏放慢了，就連一場武打戲也沒有。放心吧，往後會打個不停！

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武道狂之詩

獨派武俠漫畫

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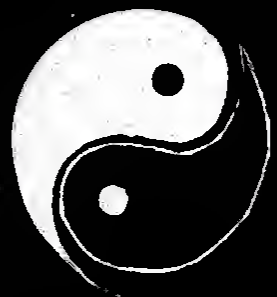
【主編】葉偉青
【製作】夢馬工作室



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武道狂之詩
獨派武俠漫畫

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原作 喬靖夫
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原著 喬靖夫
主編 葉偉青
製作 夢馬工作
12

【CHARACTERS】

Characters that appear in Volume 12

TONG JING

THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF TONG BOXIONG, LEADER OF THE MINJIANG SECT, THE BIGGEST SECT IN CHENGDU. ARROGANT AND FIERCELY COMPETITIVE BUT ALSO KIND AND CHIVALRIC. LOVES THE MARTIAL ARTS.

YAN HENG

FORMERLY YAN XIAOLIU. CAME FROM A POOR FAMILY OF FARMERS. A SWORD-LOVING YOUNG MAN KIND AND RIGHTEOUS IN NATURE. THE LAST DISCIPLE OF THE QINGCHENG SECT.

HU LINGLAN

FROM SATSUMA, JAPAN. A STRONG AND VALIANT WOMAN WHO PROVES TO BE MORE THAN A MATCH FOR MEN. SPECIALISES IN WIELDING ODACHI. CAME TO THE CENTRAL PLAIN CHASING AFTER JING LIE WHO DITCHED THEIR ENGAGEMENT.

JING LIE

THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE NANHAI HUZUN SECT OF THE FUJIAN PROVINCE. HAS TRAVELLED TO MANY PLACES AND LEARNT THE MARTIAL ARTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. DETERMINED TO CHALLENGE THE WUDANG SECT TO AVENGE HIS FALLEN SCHOOL. HAS KILLED MANY WUDANG APPRENTICES AND WAS GIVEN THE NAME "WUDANG HUNTER"

GUI DANLEI

FIST MASTER OF THE WUDANG SECT AND SUBSTITUTE TUTOR OF THE "WAY OF THE CONQUERING TURTLE" SQUAD. POSSESSES A BUILD AS THICK AND STURDY AS IRON BALLS. HAS MASTERED THE TAIJI FIST TECHNIQUE. ABLE TO GRAB BLADES WITH HIS BARE HANDS DUE TO LONG YEARS OF TRAINING WITH HIS PALMS.

FAN ZONG

ONE OF THE ELITE "BROWN SNAKES" OF WUDANG'S "WAY OF THE LEADING SNAKE" SQUAD. TASKED WITH THE DEFENCE OF MOUNT WUDANG. A MASTER IN COMBINING TAIJI WITH CLOUD-MOUNTING LEAPS. ARMED WITH SEVERAL KINDS OF THROWING KNIVES. SPECIALIZES IN THE USE OF LONG-RANGED HIDDEN WEAPONS.

SHI XINGHAO

THE OTHER VICE-PRINCIPAL OF THE WUDANG SECT. JUNIOR OF THE FORMER HEADMASTER GONG SUNQING. EXTREMELY ADEPT AT TAIJI FIST TECHNIQUE. MANAGES THE "WAY OF THE CONQUERING TURTLE" SQUAD AND TAKES CHARGE OF TRAINING DISCIPLES. DISFIGURED DURING A FIGHT WITH HIS FELLOW DISCIPLE IN HIS YOUNGER DAYS. WEARS A BLACK MASK ALL THE TIME.

YE CHENYUAN

VICE-PRINCIPAL OF THE WUDANG SECT. IN CHARGE OF THE MOST ELITE "WAY OF THE MILITARY CROW" SQUAD AND ORGANIZES EXPEDITIONARY ARMY TO CHALLENGE DIFFERENT SECTS. ONE OF THE FRONT LINERS THAT PROPELS WUDANG TO THE PEAK OF THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD. HIS SWORDSMANSHIP IS UNRIVALED AND SELDOM MEETS HIS MATCH.

YAO LIANZHOU

THE CURRENT HEADMASTER OF THE WUDANG SECT. HIS TAIJI FIST TECHNIQUE AND SWORD STYLE ARE BEYOND GODLY. SWORE TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOAL OF "BECOMING THE UNRIVALED SOVEREIGN OF THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD". THE ORIGIN OF HIS AMBITION STILL REMAINS UNKNOWN.

CHEN DAIXIU

FORMER DIRECT DISCIPLE OF YU QINGLIN, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "EIGHT SPEARS OF THE SACRED DRAGON" AND THE FORMER HEADMASTER OF EMEI. ONE OF THE THIRTEEN PRODIGIES HANDPICKED BY YE CHENYUAN TO JOIN THE WUDANG SECT.

XI XIAOYAN

FORMER DIRECT DISCIPLE OF YU QINGLIN, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "EIGHT SPEARS OF THE SACRED DRAGON" AND THE FORMER HEADMASTER OF EMEI. ONE OF THE THIRTEEN PRODIGIES HANDPICKED BY YE CHENYUAN TO JOIN THE WUDANG SECT.

YANG ZHENRU

FORMER DIRECT DISCIPLE OF YU QINGLIN, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "EIGHT SPEARS OF THE SACRED DRAGON" AND THE FORMER HEADMASTER OF EMEI. ONE OF THE THIRTEEN PRODIGIES HANDPICKED BY YE CHENYUAN TO JOIN THE WUDANG SECT.

DAI KUI

THE DIRECT DISCIPLE FROM THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS OF XINYI SECT IN THE QI COUNTY, SHANXI. UPRIGHT AND OUTSPOKEN. DOES NOT MINCE HIS WORDS. SPECIALIZES IN USING THE COMBINED WILL BLADE AND FIVE ELEMENT FIST. INHERITS THE "FIST & WEAPON AS ONE" TITLE, THE TRUE ESSENCE OF THE XINYI SECT.

LIAN FEIHONG

HEADMASTER OF THE KONGDONG SECT. FAMOUS IN GUANXI FOR HIS FIGHT GREAT TECHNIQUES. A BOLD MARTIAL ARTS FANATIC. SPARRED WITH HE ZISHENG WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.

XIAOYAN

HANDMAIDEN OF SHUQIAO, A FAMOUS COURTESAN IN YINGHUA HALL. VOLUNTEERED TO RETURN TO MOUNT WUDANG WITH YAO LIANZHOU AFTER THE BATTLE OF XI'AN.

HOU YINGZHI

JUNIOR APPRENTICE OF THE FORMER QINGCHENG SECT YAN NENG'S CLOSE CHILDHOOD FRIEND. TRAINS HARD EVERY ALL DAY LONG IN ORDER TO BECOME THE MOST OUTSTANDING SWORDSMAN. RESOLVED TO FOLLOW THE PATH IN PURSUIT OF ULTIMATE STRENGTH AND JOINED THE WUDANG SECT AFTER THE ANNIHILATION OF THE QINGCHENG SECT.

YE TIANYANG

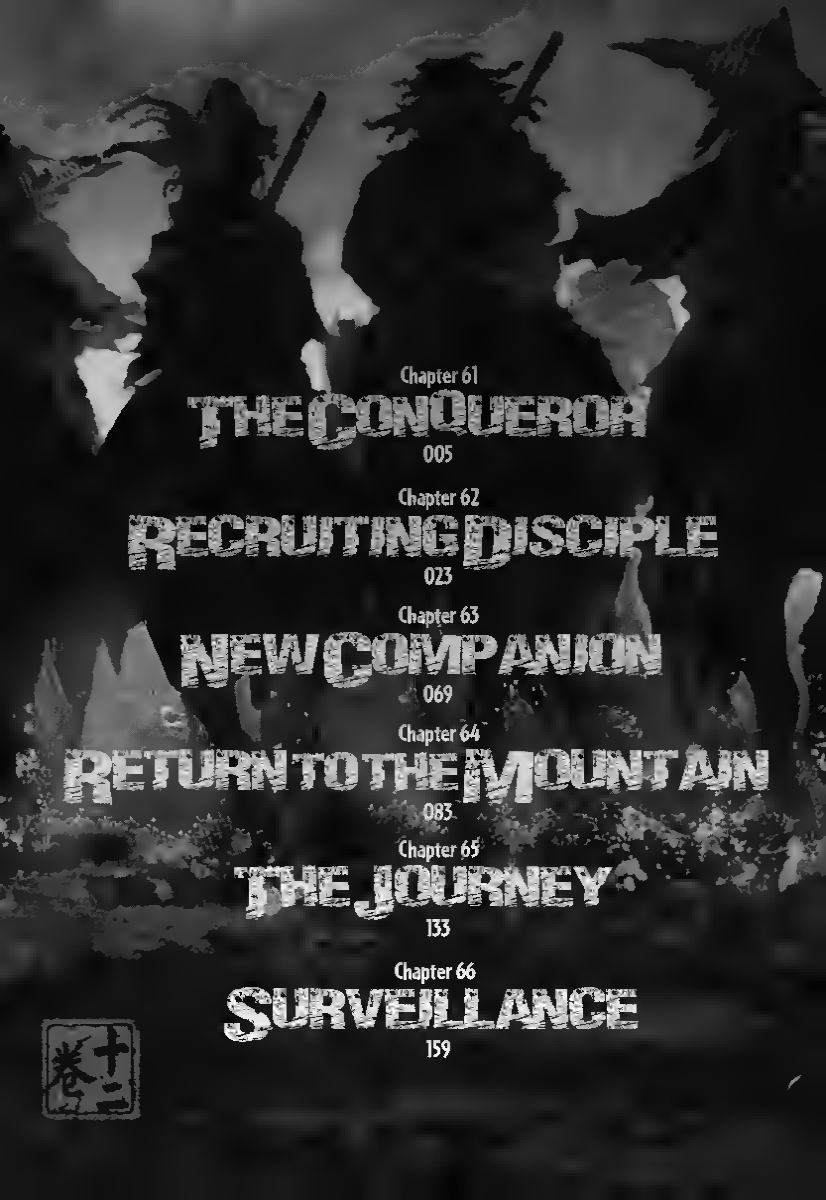
SON OF YE CHENYUAN, VICE-PRINCIPAL OF THE WUDANG SECT. THE FIRST OPPONENT HOU YINGZHI FOUGHT AGAINST WHEN HE VENTURED ONTO MOUNT WUDANG. THE TWO HAVE BEEN GOOD FRIENDS EVER SINCE.

SHANG SILANG

"WAY OF THE MILITARY CROW" SQUAD MEMBER OF THE WUDANG SECT. CALM AND STRONG-WILLED. SPECIALIZES IN WIELDING THE HEAVY GHOST HEAD BLADE WITH A THICK SHANK, FOCUSING ON MASTERING THE TAIJI BLADE IN RECENT YEARS. LOST TO SHAOLIN MONK YUANXING IN THE BATTLE OF XI'AN.

JIAO HONGYE

"WAY OF THE MILITARY CROW" SQUAD MEMBER OF THE WUDANG SECT, WHOSE SWORD STYLE IS HIGHLY SIMILAR TO JIAN YUNLAN'S. HIS RIGHT HAND WAS SEVERELY INJURED BY TONG JING IN THE FIGHT AT YINGHUA HALL.



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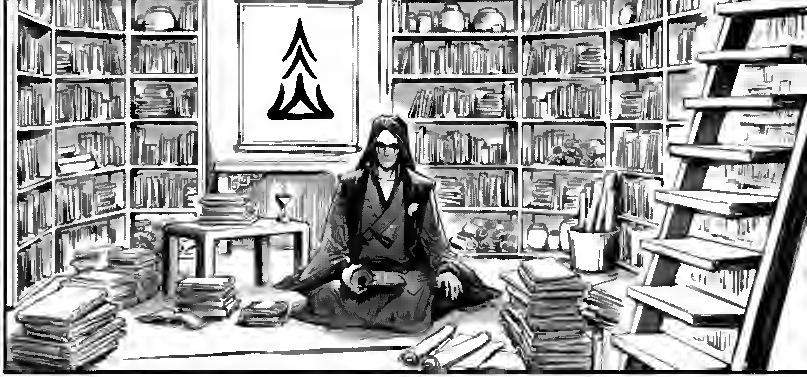
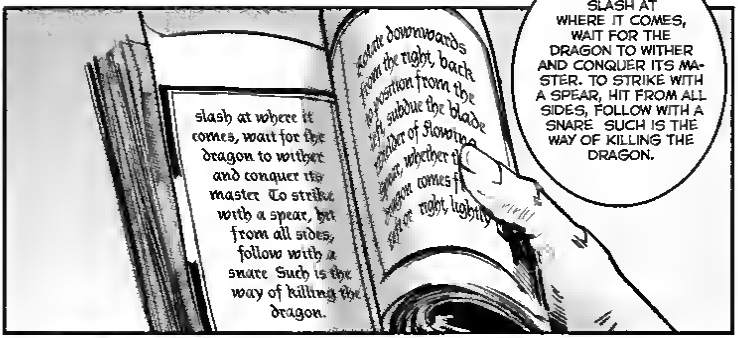
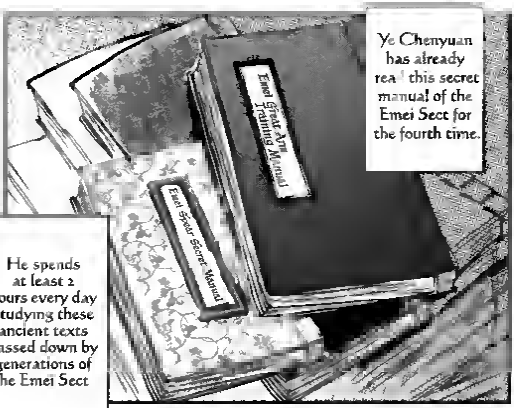
The Conqueror



TO SLASH WITH A SPEAR, BEND THY KNEES HACK WITH THE TIP RAISED NO HIGHER THAN FIVE INCHES THRUST THY OTHER HAND.
NOTCH THY SPEAR IN SAID HAND. TO ENSNARE WITH A SPEAR, FEINT A LATCH, TURN DOWNWARDS.
ROTATE DOWNWARDS FROM THE RIGHT, TWIRL UP LEFT AND SEIZE THY FOE. TO FLOW WITH A SPEAR, BE THE DRAGON FROM LEFT OR RIGHT. LIGHTLY RETREAT.


slash at where it comes, wait for the dragon to wither and conquer its master. To strike with a spear, hit from all sides, follow with a snare. Such is the way of killing the dragon.
SLASH AT WHERE IT COMES, WAIT FOR THE DRAGON TO WITHER AND CONQUER ITS MASTER. TO STRIKE WITH A SPEAR, HIT FROM ALL SIDES, FOLLOW WITH A SNARE. SUCH IS THE WAY OF KILLING THE DRAGON.

Emei Great Arm Training Manual


Emei Great Arm Training Manual
Emei Spear Secret Manual
Ye Chenyuan has already read this secret manual of the Emei Sect for the fourth time.
He spends at least 2 hours every day studying these ancient texts passed down by generations of the Emei Sect

Ever since he subdued the Emei Sect, Ye Chenyuan and the Sichuan expeditionary troop have remained at The House of Iron Mountain
The main purpose of remaining there is to stabilize the former disciples of the Emei Sect and prevent them from harboring thoughts of rebellion
At the same time, it is to spread the news of how they had surrendered without a fight, which destroys the Sect's dignity as well as their power to rally their disciples, leaving them with no way out
But these are not why Ye Chenyuan is staying at Emei for such a long time

Firstly, he wishes to absorb the martial arts essence compiled by the Emei Sect over the course of generations
A fanatic martial artist like Ye Chenyuan would not overlook this golden opportunity
He is here for two other reasons
Apart from studying the manuals every day,
He ordered the former Headmaster of the Emei Sect Yu Qingfan and his experienced disciples to take turns demonstrating various martial arts styles of their Sect.
DON'T STOP! DO IT ONCE AGAIN!
Ye Chenyuan wants to bring the essentials of Emei martial arts back to Mount Wudang, so as to further improve the Wudang martial arts and accomplish their dream of becoming "Unrivaled"

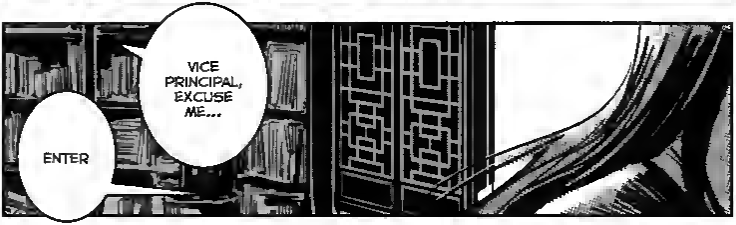
But talent and age are not of utmost importance. To enter the Wudang, the disciple must meet an essential requirement: He must possess a burning and relentless desire to become "the Strongest"
Secondly, he wants to select and recruit talented young Emei disciples into Wudang.

And they have all accepted.
No one has ever been forced to join the Wudang Sect.
As of now, Ye Chenyuan has chosen 13 former Emei disciples.

It's about time to go..

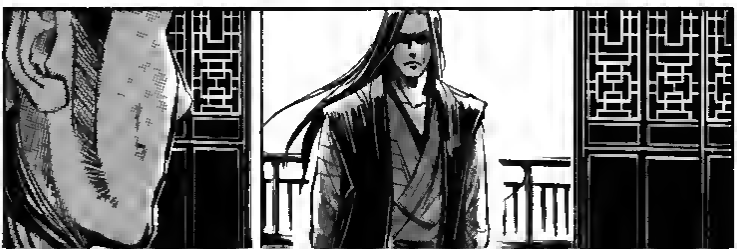
I did not win against He Zisheng. I merely killed him...
If He Zisheng's eyes had been well, what would have happened in his fight with Headmaster Yao?
Ha! How laughable of me .. trying to compare two men way above me
After I return to Mount Wudang, I will pass the expeditionary missions to Shi Xinghao or Headmaster Yao.
I have decided to seal my sword henceforth. The Sichuan expedition is to be my final fight. He Zisheng is to be my final opponent.

I will spend the rest of my life continuing the imaginary fights with He Zisheng in my heart.


VICE PRINCIPAL, EXCUSE ME...
ENTER

THE SENIORS OF THE "WAY OF THE MILITARY CROW" HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO REPORT. PLEASE DESCENT TO THE HALL.

"YANG ZIENRU"
FORMER EMEI STUDENT. PERSONALLY TAUGHT BY FORMER EMEI HEADMASTER YU QINGLIN.



砰!
Yang Zhenru has already been chosen by Ye Chenyuan as one of the 13 disciples to be brought back to Mount Wudang.
However, Ye Chenyuan never brings along any disciples when traveling about the premise. He does not even carry his Antithesis Water Fire Sword with him.
The House of Iron Mountain used to house more than 200 Emei martial artists, while Wudang's Way of the Military Crow Squad has but 30 martial artists. It is not safe to remain in the same place, surrounded by enemies that greatly outnumber them.
"I'd like to see them revive the Emei Sect using such lowly methods."
Initially, the Way of the Military Crow squad members cautioned him. But Ye Chenyuan merely replied coldly.

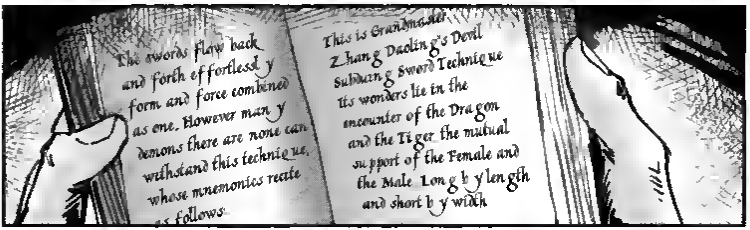
UNGRATEFUL TRAITORS...
They truly think that they are better off following this conqueror than the useless Yu Qinglm.
Ye Chunyuan's mannerism has unexpectedly garnered the approval of many young Emei students.
Yang Zhenru is one of them.
I HAVE NOTHING TO PREPARE.
ALL I NEED IS MY SPEAR.
WE WILL BE RETURNING TO WUDANG SOON... ARE YOU READY?
.....
PAY THEM NO MIND.
I KNOW IF YOUR HEADMASTER HAD NOT SURRENDERED WITHOUT A FIGHT, YOU WOULD HAVE FOUGHT COURAGEOUSLY TO YOUR VERY LAST BREATH.
GOOD.

He is convinced that following this man is the correct decision
VICE PRINCIPAL...
Yang Zhenru is inexplicably touched by Ye Chenyuan's words
LET'S GO.
Wudang Sect
Emei Training Hall
Yang Zhenru couldn't stand to remain in the House of Iron Mountain, where it reeks of defeat, a second longer. He would've liked to set off this very day.

VICE PRINCIPAL.
WE HAVE PACKED OUR BELONGINGS ON YOUR ORDERS AND ARE READY TO RETURN TO MOUNT WUDANG
WE FOUND SOMETHING WHEN WE WERE PACKING THE WEAPONS.
This is the wooden case of the "Female Male Dragon Tiger Swords", the treasure of the Qingcheng Sect. The two blades have been taken away by Yan Hang, and though their whereabouts are unknown,
Ye Chenyuan still values the case and scabbards greatly, and has ordered his disciples to retrieve them from Mount Qingcheng.

WHEN I LIFTED THE SCABBARD TO CHECK THEM, I FOUND A SECRET COMPARTMENT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BOX.
I FOUND THIS INSIDE

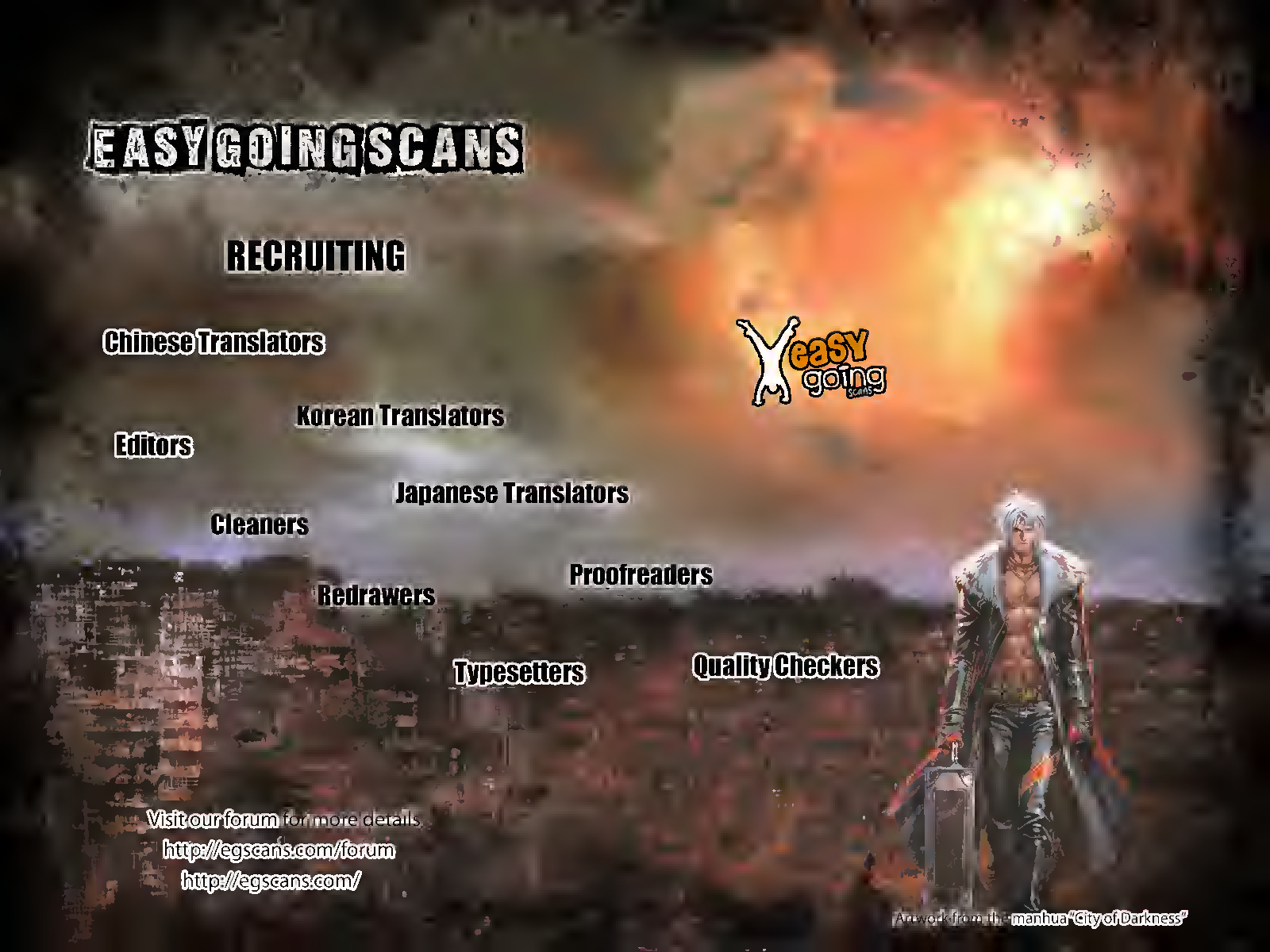
Hu!


The swords flow back and forth effortlessly form and force combined as one. However many demons there are none can withstand this technique, whose mnemonics recite as follows:
This is Grandmaster Zhang Daoling's Devil Subduing Sword Technique Its wonders lie in the encounter of the Dragon and the Tiger the mutual support of the Female and the Male Long by length and short by width

Dancing Cloud,
Rumbling Mountain,
Lashing Claws,
Vibrating Scales,
Diving into Deep Sea,
Transcending the
Vault of Heaven
THIS IS THE MANUAL OF THE FEMALE-MALE DRAGON-TIGER SWORD TECHNIQUE.
IF... I CAN LEARN EVEN JUST A BIT OF HE ZISHENG'S SWORD TECHNIQUE I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHALLENGE HIM AGAIN...

THESE ARE CODES.

The Qingcheng Sect students understand these codes!
Naturally, the ones worthy of laying eyes on the sword manual are the Qingcheng Sect students... In other words,
certainly didn't write this for himself, but to pass it on to others...
The author of the manual would naturally understand the Female-Male Dragon-Tiger Sword Technique.
Is this... really useless item...?
There is at least a Qingcheng student still alive in this world and I know where he is right now
And then there's him!
WE WILL DEPART FOR MOUNT WUDANG TOMORROW.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BLOOD AND STEEL

Author: 喬靖夫 > Jozev
Manhua by 夢馬工作室 > Unicorn Studios
Comic Design > Felix Ip
Script: Toe Yuen

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Cleaner: Kie
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Chapter 62
Accepting a Disciple

The bloody battles happened just yesterday, the wounds still ache.
But to Yan Heng, it felt as if the battle happened a long time ago

Or rather, that he had grown up after the experience.
탕!!
The joy he felt from freely riding across the plains with his comrades in arms was a unique feeling.

YAO LIANZHOU PROMISED 5 YEARS OF CEASEFIRE.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW THAT WE'VE LOST OUR TARGET?
WHY DON'T WE TRAVEL AND TRAIN AT THE SAME TIME?
LIKE WHAT WE DID IN SI CHUAN. THAT WAS FUN.

GOOD IDEA!

WHAT'S WRONG...?

NO.
ARE WE BEING FOLLOWED?
IT COULDN'T BE WUDANG...?
Even though they are bitter enemies, Yan Heng holds a strange trust in Yao Lianzhou.
HE IS NOT THAT KIND OF PERSON.
Jing Lie had travelled extensively, and had managed to escape traps of countless treacherous foes.
Those experiences taught him a lesson... To never underestimate the evils of the human heart.

Of course I would want to slaughter him and avenge my Emei friends...
He had only met Jiang Yunlan the day before, but time had not diminished his hatred.
Not to mention, the assassins of Wudang's Bin Ya Dao had ambushed him in Cheng Du
DIE!
DIE!

IT'S HIM.
AH! IT'S HEAD-MASTER LIAN...
WE DID NOT THANK HIM PROPERLY YESTERDAY, WHY DON'T WE...

JUST LISTEN TO ME.
BUT JING LIE, THAT IS NOT PROPER...
PAY NO ATTENTION TO HIM.
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD...
HO!!

嗒
嗒
嗒
吧！

嗖！嗖！嗖！
嗖
嗖

It's Dai Kui of the Xinyi Sect.
Headmaster Lian? Why is he here?

JING LIE... I'M GLAD THAT I MANAGED TO CATCH UP TO YOU...
DAI KUI, TAKE IT SLOWLY.
I.. I...

AND THAT DISGRACEFUL YAN QINGTONG FROM OUR SECT... I'M TRULY...
THE XINYI SECT WAS UTTERLY DEFEATED IN BATTLE...
I'M NOT GOOD AT FORMALITIES. I'LL CUT TO THE CHASE.
WE WERE CRUSHED BY THE WUDANG...
LET ME CHANGE YOUR BANDAGE FIRST...
DAI KUI...
Yan Heng held a high opinion of Dai Kui ever since he had witnessed him disregard the reputation of his sect to save a poisoned prostitute.

IT'S ALL IN THE PAST.
YAN HENG...
THAT BASTARD YAN QING TONG FROM MY SECT ALSO HAD A PART IN FRAMING YOU. AND YET YOU...
AREN'T I STILL ALIVE?
DISCIPLES FROM FAMOUS SECTS SURE ARE DIFFERENT.

I'VE BEEN THINKING...
ABOUT WHAT JING LIE SAID ON THE ROOFTOP YESTERDAY...
"PUTTING ASIDE THE DIFFERENCES IN SECTS, TRADING SKILLS, AND CREATING AN EVEN STRONGER MARTIAL ARTS."
WELL SAID.
IF YOU WILL HAVE ME, I WANT TO JOIN YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY FOR A WHILE!
AND EXCHANGE TECHNIQUES, AND TRAIN WITH YOU!
IT'S A SHAME...
THAT NO ONE UNDERSTANDS.

EVEN THOUGH THERE IS A PROMISE OF CEASEFIRE FOR 5 YEARS,
IF WE ARE UNABLE TO GREATLY IMPROVE OUR MARTIAL ARTS WITHIN THIS PERIOD,
WE WON'T BE A MATCH FOR THE DISCIPLES OF WUDANG NEXT TIME. IN THE END, WE ARE ONLY EXTENDING OUR PITIFUL LIVES BY A FEW YEARS!
TO BE HONEST, I HAVE REASONS FOR DOING SO. IT'S ALL FOR THE FUTURE OF MY SECT...
THAT BATTLE YESTERDAY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE XINYI SECT IS NO MATCH FOR THE PROWESS OF THE WUDANG. THE DIFFERENCE IN SKILL IS SIMPLY TOO GREAT...
I REQUESTED TO TRAIN WITH YOU, BUT WHAT I REALLY WANT ARE YOUR SKILLS AND IDEAS.
TO BRING THOSE BACK TO MY SECT AND TO HELP IMPROVE THE XINYI SECT MARTIAL ARTS.
EVEN IF WE STILL CAN'T DEFEAT THE WUDANG SECT IN 5 YEARS, WE COULD AT LEAST MAKE THEM PAY A HIGHER PRICE!
He rushed over without hesitation. He is truly an open-minded man. Even though Jing Lie's martial arts skills are better than his, he could not help but respect Dai Kui.
Dai Kui is older than Jing Lie, he is also more well known in the martial arts world. In the last battle, he lost to Jing Lie in the eyes of many people.

IS THERE ANY REASON FOR ME TO REFUSE?
Having one companion with the same ambition is enough. Now, there's one more.
Yan Heng has seen Jing Lie smile like this before. That was when they first met at Mount Qingcheng.

Did she have another famous master...?
Dai Kui dared not question this delicate girl.
YESTERDAY I HEARD HER SAYING THAT SHE'S LEARNING SWORD STYLES FROM YAN HENG.
BUT SHE PULLED OFF A STRIKE THAT EVEN YAN HENG COULDN'T HAVE DONE AND DISABLED ONE OF THE SWORDSMEN OF THE WUDANG SECT'S BIN YA DAO WITH ONLY ONE STRIKE
LEAVE HIM BE.
WHY IS HEAD-MASTER LIAN HERE TOO...? AREN'T WE GREETING HIM FIRST?
I'M HUNGRY, LETS HURRY TO THE NEXT TOWN AND GET LUNCH.
GET ON THE HORSE

WA-WAIT!
I... I AM THE SAME AS HIM...
I WANT TO GO WITH YOU !
FOR WHAT REASON ?

踏
WILL YOU BE MY DISCIPLE?

WHAT?
HOW ABOUT IT?
NO WAY.

WA-WAIT A MOMENT! YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM RIGHT?
I HEARD FROM JING LIE. YOU ARE THE HEAD-MASTER OF THE KONG-DONG SECT, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT! KONG-DONG SECT!
ONE OF THE WORLD'S NINE GREAT SECT...
NOT ANY-MORE...
PA
PA

In an instant, several weapons have changed through the hands of Lian Fei Hong, drawing and sheathing quickly as if nothing had happened, and as if all that happened had just been an illusion. His swift motions flowed as if they were the most natural thing in the world.
YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR REPUTATION!
I'm so lucky this time to join Jing Lie's group.
If Master Feihong joins us, I will also have the chance to learn the arts of the Kongdong Sect. This will definitely benefit the Xinyi Sect greatly!
I would trade 10 years of my life for this kind of chance!
Dai Kui had heard of the reputation of KongDong's "Eight Great Techniques", but never had the chance to see it.

After seeing this performance, Jing Lie was excited but he did not show it on his face.
WHY DON'T YOU CALL ME MASTER?
CHILD, HOW IS IT?
YOU'LL WANT TO LEARN AFTER SEEING THIS, RIGHT?
I REFUSE.

WHY?
Impossible! No young martial artist would outright reject the Kongdong Sect martial arts...
All the more so when I, Master Feihong will teach personally!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH LEARNING FROM ME...
ITS NOT ABOUT RIGHT OR WRONG.
IT'S JUST BECAUSE OF THAT? THAT'S EASY!
I AM ALREADY LEARNING FROM THEM, SO I CAN'T HAVE OTHER MASTER.

AS LONG AS I PROVE THAT I AM STRONGER, I WOULD BE MORE WORTHY OF BEING YOUR MASTER!
WHY DON'T I DEFEAT THEM IN FRONT OF YOU?
Yan Heng became nervous as he realized that this senior with such a high position wanted to fight with him.
OF COURSE, AMONG US 3 MASTERS, I AM THE GREATEST!
IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO FIGHT. AS LONG AS YOU ARE SENSIBLE AND ALLOW THIS CHILD TO ADDRESS ME AS HER MASTER, I WON'T CAUSE YOU ANY TROUBLE.

I'M LEARNING FRDM THEM BECAUSE WE HAD A PRDMISE!
IT DDESN'T MATTER WHD IS STRDNGER!
EVEN IF THEY AGREE FDR YDU TD BE MY MASTER, I WON'T AGREE TD IT! A PRDMISE IS A PROMISE!
EVEN IF IT'S THE WDRLD'S STRDN-GEST, YAD LIANZHOU,I WON'T ADDRESS HIM AS MASTER! NEVER MIND YDU!
As if a gush of cold water came down on his head, his fierce spirit disappeared.

TONG JING, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!
YOU CANNOT BE SO RUDE TO HEADMASTER LIAN! HE EVEN SAVED YOU YESTERDAY!
IF NOT FOR HEADMASTER LIAN'S SWORD, YOU WOULD HAVE LOST YOUR EYES TO WUDANG'S JIAO HONG YE!
Upon seeing Lian Feihong's dejected look, Tong Jing realized that she shouldn't have said that.
If I apologise to him in public, doesn't it look like I am obeying Yan Heng?

HMPH!

I HAVEN'T THANKED YOU FOR HELPING US YESTERDAY...
SENIOR, IF MY COMPANION HAS OFFENDED YOU, PLEASE FORGIVE HER.
THAT'S RIGHT.
SUCH A CHANCE ENCOUNTER IS ALWAYS WELCOME*. PLEASE DO US THE HONOUR.
LATER.
WHY DON'T WE GO TO THE NEXT TOWN TOGETHER AND HAVE LUNCH? WE CAN TALK ABOUT THE OTHER THINGS

T/N DAI KUI USES A CHINESE IDIOM WHICH MEANS A CHANCE ENCOUNTER IS BETTER THAN A CHOSEN ENCOUNTER, THUS ONE SHOULD APPRECIATE THE MOMENT

It must have been Yan Heng who invited him!
This is infuriating!

?
GET SOME WINE AS WELL.
BRING US YOUR MOST EXPENSIVE FOOD!
WELL, WE HAVE NEW FRIENDS.

WE'RE ALL MARTIAL ARTISTS, NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL. LET'S EAT.

JING LIE, THAT MOVE... IT'S IMARVEL-LOUS!
I LEARNT IT FROM SOME-ONE CALLED XIAN LUO, IN A SMALL COUNTRY TO THE SOUTH CALLED "SIAM"*.
WHAT TECH-NIQUE IS IT FROM? IT'S NOT ONE FROM THE CENTRAL PLAIN.
"SIAM"... I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT... I REALLY MUST LEARN FROM YOU.
T/N: AKA THAILAND IN THIS ERA
JUNIOR...
IF YOU HADN'T HELD BACK, I WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN NEEDED TO WAIT FOR TAO LIAN ZHOU.
I TRIED HARD NOT TO PARRY WITH ONE ARM THAT TIME...

LET US HONOUR THOSE WHO DIED FOR THE XINYI SECT.

SENIOR LIAN...
I HEARD THAT YOU AND MY MASTER WERE FRIENDS FOR A LONG TIME, I WONDER IF...

DON'T WORRY, HE WILL COME HERE SOON.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ?
JING LIE, WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING?

SENIOR.
WHY DO YOU PERSIST ON HAVING TONG JING AS YOUR DISCIPLE?
IT IS BECAUSE OF THE STRIKE SHE DID YESTERDAY.

JUST FROM THAT STRIKE, I CAN SAY FOR SURE THAT SHE IS A TALENTED MARTIAL ARTIST, THE LIKES OF WHICH ONLY APPEARS ONCE IN A CENTURY.
I WAS ENGROSSED IN MARTIAL ARTS FOR 10 YEARS, I CAN SEE IT CLEARLY.
JUST BECAUSE OF... A STRIKE?
The expression of "A talent that only appears once in a century" has long been misused in the martial arts world
But when it comes from the Kongdong Sect's former headmaster, it has a different weight to it.
AFTER SEEING THE SWORD SWING YESTERDAY, I WAS SURPRISED
I MUST ADMIT, I MISJUDGED HER.
AT FIRST, I WAS JUST TOUCHED BY HER PASSION FOR MARTIAL ARTS.
NOT AT ALL.
YOU WERE WILLING TO TEACH HER BECAUSE YOU SPOTTED HER TALENT TOO, RIGHT?
JING LIE.

Won't it be a waste if I teach her?
I KNOW THAT IN MY LIFETIME, I CAN NEVER BE THE BEST.
If Jing Lie and Headmaster Lian have said so, then it must be the truth.
Tong Jing has an incredible hidden talent.
I AM OLD NOW. MY TECHNIQUES HAVE SOFTENED AND MY STRENGTH IS WANING.
SIGH... MY DAYS OF PURSUING GREATER MARTIAL ARTS ARE OVER.
EVER SINCE I MET YOUR MASTER HE ZISHENG,
AND SEEN HIS SWORD TECHNIQUE. I KNEW.
A CRAZY MARTIAL ARTS FAN HAS FOUND HIS LIMIT AND IS UNABLE TO GO AGAINST THE PASSAGE OF TIME...
HOW IRONIC...

BUT THE TALENT I SAW IN THIS CHILD YESTERDAY...
SO I MADE UP MY MIND DOZENS OF YEARS AGO.
I MUST TRAIN AN EXCELLENT DISCIPLE FOR THE KONGDONG SECT!
SHE IS AN UNREFINED JEWEL. SHE COULD PERFECT THE KONGDONG SECT'S EIGHT GREAT TECHNIQUES ONE DAY!
HOWEVER, THEY LACK THE TALENT I AM SEARCHING FOR...
UNFORTUNATELY, THE AREA AROUND GANSHU AND PINGLIANG IS SCARCELY POPULATED BUT I ACCEPTED A FEW DISCIPLES,
SO EVEN IF I CAN'T BECOME THE GREATEST MARTIAL ARTIST, I'LL LEAVE BEHIND A GREAT LEGACY IN THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD.
WE ARE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING EITHER... EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE ONLY KNOWN HER FOR A FEW MONTHS,
EVEN IF I ORDER HER AS HER MASTER, SHE WON'T OBEY.
WE KNOW JUST HOW STUBBORN SHE IS.
WE'D REALLY LOVE TO HELP YOU.
BUT WE HAVE NO IDEA EITHER...
WHAT?! WHAT SHOULD I DO?!

I'VE GOT IT! I'VE GOT IT!
YOU TWO...
SO AS LONG AS I PASS THE TECHNIQUES OF THE KONG-DONG SECT TO YOU,
YOU CAN TEACH IT TO HER!
EVEN IF SHE IS UNWILLING TO LEARN KONG-DONG SECT'S TECHNIQUES FROM ME
SHE'S WILLING TO LEARN FROM YOU!
?
So that's why Jing Lie has been cold towards Senior Luan. It's because he wants Senior Luan to teach us the Kongdong Sect's martial arts willingly!
YAN HENG IS A DISCIPLE OF THE FAMOUS QINGCHENG SECT, HOW CAN HE LEARN MARTIAL ARTS FROM ANOTHER SECTS...
FURTHER-MORE, YAN HENG AND I BELONG TO OTHER SECTS,
THE KONGDONG SECT'S MARTIAL ARTS ARE NOT TO BE PASSED ON TO OUTSID-ERS, RIGHT?
NO! HOW IS THAT POS-SIBLE?
THE PERSON YOU WANT TO TEACH IS HER, HOW CAN WE LEARN IT?

I AM VERY CLOSE TO YOUR MASTER.
I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE NOT LEARNED THE FEMALE-MALE DRAGON-TIGER SWORD STYLE YET, RIGHT?
I AM THE HEADMASTER OF THE KONGDONG SECT NO, THE FORMER HEAD-MASTER. IF I WISH TO TEACH SOMEONE, WHO WOULD DARE TO GO AGAINST ME?
WHY NOT?
I HAVE SEEN MANY OF HE ZISHENG'S SWORD STYLES. I CAN EVEN GIVE YOU SOME POINTERS.
From among those, there is no other with influence and judgement on par with that of former headmaster Han.
Other than the Wudang sect, there are few people who are still alive after seeing He Zisheng's Female-Male Dragon-Tiger Sword style.
ALL RIGHT!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS!
To Yan Heng, who desires above all else to revive the Qingcheng Sect's ultimate technique, he could not reject such an offer.

BUT I'LL MAKE THIS CLEAR BEFOREHAND. WE ARE NOT JOINING THE KONGDONG SECT AND WE WON'T CALL YOU MASTER.
THAT'S FANTASTIC! HA-HA-HA!
SIGH, SINCE YOU ARE SO SINCERE, I WILL ALSO HELP YOU.
DON'T EVEN CALL ME SENIOR!
CALL ME MR. FEIHONG OR SIR!
DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE SO EASY FOR ME TO ALLOW YOU TO CALL ME MASTER?
HMPH!
Unexpectedly, this famous senior gave Yan Heng some hope that he could reconnect with his late master and the lost Female-Male Dragon Tiger Sword Style
WAITER! BRING US MORE FOOD! WINE TOO!
JUST A MOMENT AGO I HAD NO APPETITE, BUT NOW I'M FAMISHED!

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Chapter 63
New Companion

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XIAO YING, WHERE ARE YOU?
XIAO YING, WAIT FOR ME!
STOP PLAYING AROUND! COME OUT!

DON'T COME DOWN!
I'M UP HERE.
HOW ON EARTH DID I LOSE?

I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?
I KNEW IT. YOU TOOK A SHORTCUT!

WHOA!
ENOUGH ALREADY! LET'S JUMP DOWN TO-GETHER!
哈!
哈!
哈!
哈!

SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
NAH, IT'S NOTHING....
I WAS JUST THINKING OF HOW LUCKY I AM TO HAVE COME TO MOUNT WUDANG.
I THOUGHT, AFTER JOINING UP WITH THE WUDANG IT WOULD BE DAY AFTER DAY OF TORTUROUS TRAINING. BUT IT HASN'T BEEN LIKE THAT AT ALL.
PLEASE ACCEPT ME, HOU YINGZHI, AS A DISCIPLE OF THE WUDANG SECT.
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE MY OWN TEACHER, ALL THE BROTHERS IN THE WUDANG SECT HAVE TREATED ME AS PART OF THE FAMILY SINCE MY FIRST DAY.

ON THE PRACTICE FIELD, NO ONE IS PARTICULARLY HOSTILE TOWARDS ME, EVEN THOUGH I CAME FROM ANOTHER SECT. THE BROTHER'S COACH ME WITH THE SAME DILIGENCE THAT THEY SHOW TOWARDS ALL THE DISCIPLES.

MOST OF THE BROTHERS IN THE "WAY OF THE CONQUERING TURTLE" SQUAD PAY NO MIND TO SENIORITY. THEY EVEN INVITE ME TO DEMONSTRATE THE SWORD-FIGHTING TECHNIQUE OF THE QINGCHENG SECT, TO LEARN WAYS OF IMPROVING THE WUDANG MARTIAL ARTS.

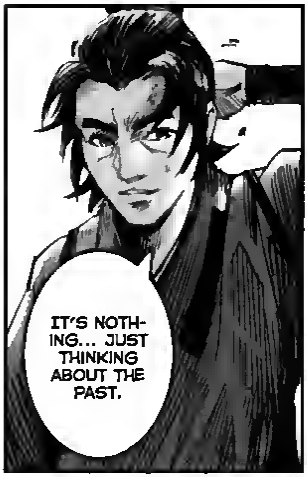
IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN DISCUSSION GET HEATED WHILE DEBATING IDEAS ON MARTIAL TECHNIQUE, NEVER ABOUT PERSONAL REASONS.
WE PRACTISE FOR TWO SESSIONS EVERY DAY, ONE IN THE MORNING AND ONE IN THE AFTERNOON. THESE SESSIONS MAY BE NAUSEATINGLY HELLISH, BUT AFTER CLASS EVERYBODY COMES TOGETHER IN GOOD SPIRITS.

IT'S BECAUSE WE ARE ALL COMPANIONS SEEKING A SIMPLE, COMMON GOAL.

He never puts on any airs as "Son of the Vice Principal", nor do the people around him treat him any differently.
Like him,
only after being friends for some time did I find out that Ye Tianyang was the son of Vice Principal Ye Chengjian.
ALL RIGHT.
IT'LL BE TIME FOR OUR AFTERNOON SESSION SOON.
LET'S HEAD BACK, XIAO YING.
HA
HA
BOOM

Every time Hou Yingzhi hears Ye Tianyang call him that, his heart fills with warmth, but also with bitterness.
STILL ALIVE?
ARE THEY....
I DON'T DENY THAT I'M A SELFISH PERSON.
EVER SINCE THE DAY I DECIDED TO JOIN THE WUDANG SECT, I HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THEM ENTIRELY.
ALL I THOUGHT ABOUT WAS MY OWN FUTURE. ONLY AFTER I SETTLED DOWN DID I START TO REFLECT ON THE THINGS THAT I HAVE LOST.

Xiao Liu, forget about revenge.. If you come here and take even one look, you'll understand the futility of it...
Perhaps Xiao Liu is still alive and has found Xiao Li. Those two are probably already god-knows-where, enjoying each other's company and trying to forget what happened..


IT'S NOTHING... JUST THINKING ABOUT THE PAST.

XIAO YING, YOU SEEM A LITTLE STRANGE TODAY.

"MILITARY CROW".

XIAO YING.
IF IT WERE UP TO YOU, WOULD YOU RATHER JOIN THE "MILITARY CROW" OR THE "CONQUERING TURTLE"?

It's clear to Hou Yingzhi that if Tianyang Ye didn't have his father's skill, there's no way he could wear the black garb of the Military Crow.
VANQUISHING FOES EVERYWHERE. SENDING BLOOD FLYING WITH THE GLEAM OF A SWORD, TO PROVE WHO IS THE BEST. THAT'S MY IDEAL OF BEING A MARTIAL ARTIST.
IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT FOLLOWING IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS.
I OFTEN SEE BROTHER JIANG BRING FOOD AND A CHANGE OF CLOTHES TO THE GROVE BEHIND YU ZHEN TEMPLE.
WHAT IS THAT FOR?
THAT'S RIGHT... THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU...
THE FOOD AND CLOTHES ARE GIVEN TO THE THIRD ONE.
I KNOW.
XIAO YING, DON'T YOU KNOW? WE HAVE THREE VICE PRINCIPALS IN THE WUDANG SECT.

WE CAN'T SAY!
THERE WAS A RULE FORMEO SIX YEARS AGO. SINCE THEN, NO MEMBER OF THE WUOANG SECT HAS BEEN ALLOWEO TO MEN-TION HIS NAME.
WHAT'S THE NAME OF THIS VICE PRINCIPAL?
SO WHY IS HE LIVING ON HIS OWN BEHINO THE TEMPLE?
I WAS STILL A KIO THEN, I DON'T REMEMBER ALL THE DETAILS.
FATHER NEVER TOLO ME ABOUT IT. BUT I VAGUELY REMEMBER SOME OF THE OLOER BROTHERS SAYING THAT THAT'S WHAT HAPPENEO
...BECAUSE HE LOST THE CHALLENGE WITH HEAOMASTER YAO?
WAS THIS VICE PRINCIPAL... IMPRIS-ONEO...
DID THIS HAPPEN AT THE SAME TIME THAT HEAOMASTER YAO CAME TO POWER? WAS IT A POWER STRUGGLE?
I ONLY KINO OF REMEMBER THAT THERE WAS THIS ONE MAN WHO ALWAYS HAD A GROUP OF STUOENTS AROUNO HIM.
AFTER HE WAS SENT TO THE CAVE, I NEVER SAW ANY OF THOSE STUOENTS AGAIN...
IT'S BEEN SO LONG. I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE...
YOU'VE LIVEO ON THE MOUNTAIN SINCE YOU WERE A KIO, SURELY YOU MUST'VE SEEN HIM?
WHAT IS HE LIKE?

THE "BROWN SNAKE" OF THE "WAY OF THE CHIEF SNAKE" SQUAD!
AND I ALSO CAN REMEMBER THAT HE AND ONE OR TWO OF HIS STUDENTS WORE BROWN DAOIST ROBES.
RIGHT! I ALSO REMEMBER BROTHER GUI DANLEI TALKING ABOUT HIM A FEW YEARS AGO. HE CALLED HIM A "TRAITOR" OF THE WUDANG SECT.
OTHER THAN THAT, I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH.
And if this man is an imprisoned traitor, why hasn't he been stripped of his position as Vice Principal?
Traitor?
What could he have done or stood for that would make the Wudang view him so harshly?
It seems that to this day, none of the other Wudang disciples have been able to take it from him
"Vice Principal" isn't merely a position. It's also a title that symbolizes one's strength. It can only be won with strength.

THAT'S THE BELL CALLING FOR AN URGENT ASSEMBLY!
THE HEADMASTER MUST BE BACK!
踏!
踏!
HURRY UP!
XIAO YING, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM YET, RIGHT?

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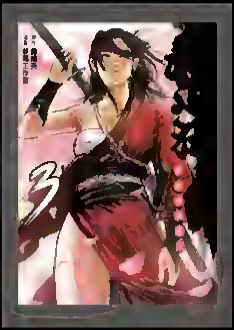

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武道家の詩
Chapter 64
Return to the Mountain
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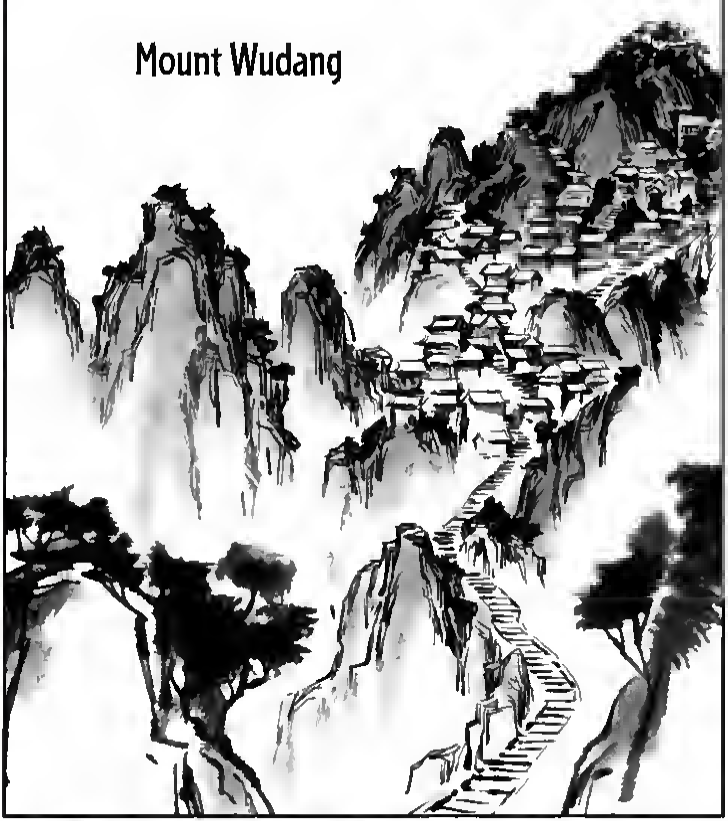
Mount Wudang

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Not a single person was kneeling
Everyone was wearing the same expression on their face.

Instead, they all stood quietly at attention, and gaze ' the approaching figure of Yao Lianzhou with utmost respect.

mangapanda

Yao Lianzhou wordlessly accepted their gazes.
The attitude the disciples displayed towards him was not born out of fear or respect for his position, but rather out of genuine admiration from the bottom of their heart.

XIAOYAN, WHEN YOU LEAVE WITH A MAN LIKE THIS YOU NEED TO BRACE YOURSELF FOR THE FACT THAT YOU WILL NEVER BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN HIS HEART.
IF THERE IS ANY OTHER PLACE THAT YOU WISH TO GO
I WILL NOT STOP YOU.
PLEASE TAKE ME TO... WHERE YOU LIVE.
ALL RIGHT.

Just how much power and authority the person she loves holds
As they crossed the courtyard of Yuzhen Gong together, Yin Xiaoyan finally realized
A nobody like me is actually walking among these people.
In the crowd gathered here, how many are as fearsome as Fan Zong or Xi Xiaoyan?
What on earth am I doing in a place like this..?
Am I even... worthy of him?

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Though the crowd of gathered disciples were curious as to why their Head-master had brought a young girl back with him to the mount-ain, not one of them voiced a whisper.
For there was not a single person here who would question the decisions made by the Head-master

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T/N: WRITING ON THE PAPER. HUASHAN LITERALLY CALLED MOUNT HUA

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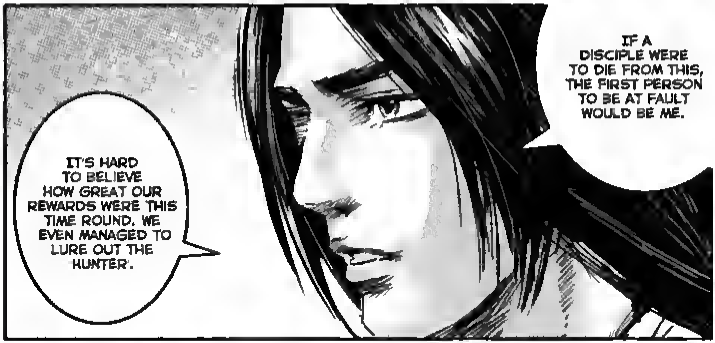
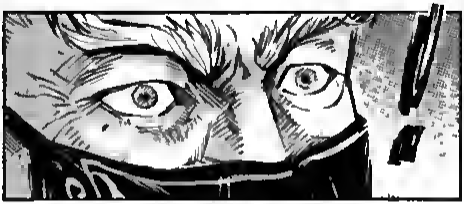
THE MISTAKE AROSE OUT OF MY CARELESS DECISION. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PUNISH ME, HEAD-MASTER.


IF A DISCIPLE WERE TO DIE FROM THIS, THE FIRST PERSON TO BE AT FAULT WOULD BE ME.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HOW GREAT OUR REWARDS WERE THIS TIME ROUND. WE EVEN MANAGED TO LURE OUT THE HUNTER'.

GUI DANLEI ALSO HAS MATTERS TO REPORT, SO HE WILL BE COMING ALONG.



WE'LL SPEAK MORE AFTER WE ENTER THE HALL. I ALSO WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THE CAPITAL.

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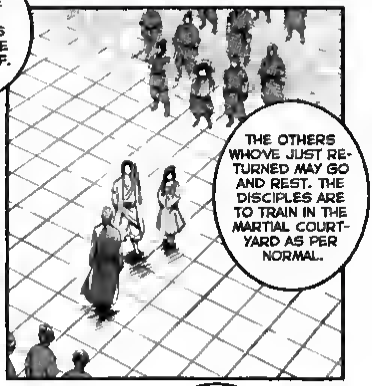
SHALL WE HAVE YOU SETTLED SOMEWHERE FOR NOW?
I HAVE SOME THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF.
I think I'll .


THE OTHERS WHOVE JUST RETURNED MAY GO AND REST. THE DISCIPLES ARE TO TRAIN IN THE MARTIAL COURTYARD AS PER NORMAL.

I'LL GO WITH YOU TO WHERE YOU WORK I'LL WAIT OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

ALL RIGHT.

EXCUSE ME, BROTHER!
PLEASE MAKE SOME SPACE FOR ME!

WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME WHEN I HIT HIS AGE?
DESPITE HIS YOUTH, EVEN YE CHENYUAN HAS TO SUBMIT TO HIM.
YINGZHI!
Looking at Yao Lianzhou, Hou Yingzhi's blood surges with excitement, and he is impatient to return to his training quickly

I UNDERSTAND

HEADMASTER ORDERED FOR YOU TO DO SO THE INSTANT HE RETURNED TO THE MOUNTAIN THERE ARE THINGS THAT HE'D LIKE TO QUESTION YOU ABOUT AFTERWARDS.
YOU ARE TO WAIT OUTSIDE ZHENXIAN HALL AS WELL.

He just returned, and he wants to see me, a newly enrolled disciple? He must think very highly of me!
The Headmaster wants to see me?
How great the decision I made back then to join was definitely the right one.

BROTHER FAN, HOW FARE YOUR WOUNDS?
BRAT, YOUR BODY LOOKS MORE MUSCULAR THAN BEFORE. IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SLACKING OFF IN PRACTICE.
THEY'RE FINE. GO QUICKLY.
BUT OF COURSE!
SEE YOU LATER, BROTHER FAN!

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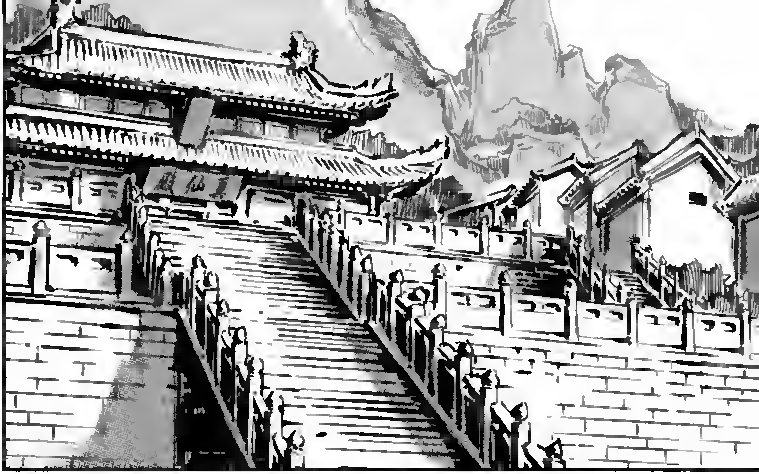

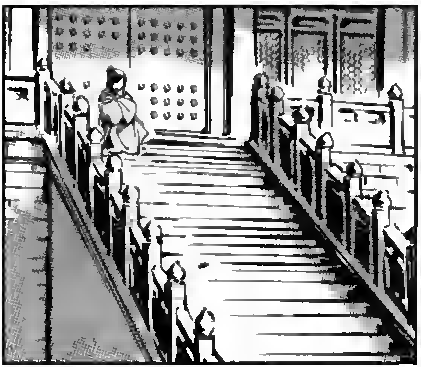

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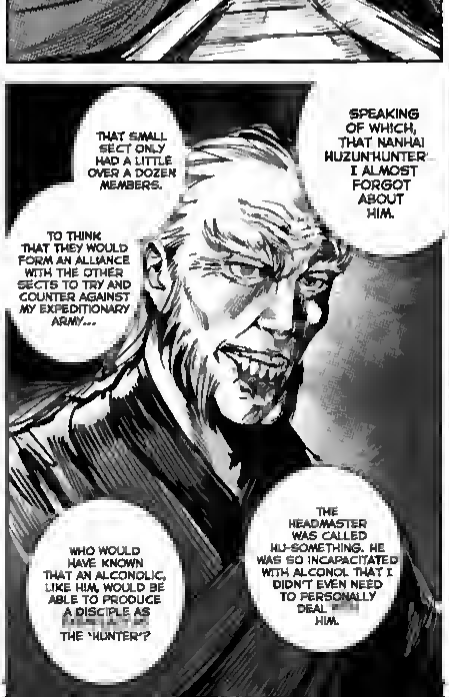
WERE YOU ABLE TO FULLY RECOVER DURING THE JOURNEY BACK?
YOU KNOW ABOUT MY PAST... A POISON LIKE THAT IS NOWHERE ENOUGH TO KILL ME


SPEAKING OF WHICH, THAT NANHAI HUZUN'HUNTER I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT HIM.
THAT SMALL SECT ONLY HAD A LITTLE OVER A DOZEN MEMBERS.
TO THINK THAT THEY WOULD FORM AN ALLIANCE WITH THE OTHER SECTS TO TRY AND COUNTER AGAINST MY EXPEDITIONARY ARMY...
THE HEADMASTER WAS CALLED HU-SOMETHING. HE WAS SO INCAPACITATED WITH ALCONOL THAT I DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO PERSONALLY DEAL WITH HIM.
WHO WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT AN ALCONOLIC, LIKE HIM, WOULD BE ABLE TO PRODUCE A DISCIPLE AS [illegible] THE 'HUNTER'?

AND SO... THAT WAS THE SITUATION OF THE BATTLE OF XI'AN.

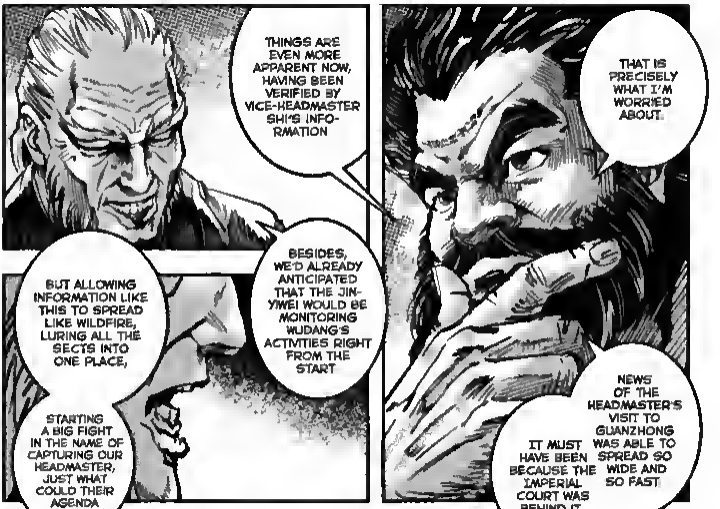
In his heart, Shi Shinghao disapproved of his Headmaster's actions, but he didn't voice his thoughts aloud.
And yet the Headmaster still gave him several years to develop his abilities.
Then "Wudang Hunter" Jing Le could just be the greatest foe for us, the Wudang Sect

AND THERE IS ANOTHER ONE
ONE IS A SWORDSWOMAN FROM JAPAN, WHOSE SKILLS ARE ON PAR WITH XI XIAOYAN'S,
HE HAS HIS COMPANIONS.
TRULY A GROUP OF INTERESTING FELLOWS.
ONE IS THE LAST SURVIVING DISCIPLE OF THE QIN-GCHENG SECT;

BUT THERE ARE ONLY A FEW OF THEM. THEY DO NOT POSE MUCH THREAT TO WUDANG.
WE SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TO SHAOLIN, ON THE OTHER HAND.
THAT OLD MONK, FROM THE SHAOLIN TEMPLE, SPECIALLY LEFT HIS MOUNTAIN JUST TO SPOUT A BUNCH OF PEACE-TALKING NONSENSE TO US.
THE GREAT SHAOLIN SECT IS NOTHING MORE THAN SO. IT LOOKS LIKE THERE REMAINS NO ONE ELSE THAT CAN STOP US WUDANG FROM REIGNING SUPREME.
WHAT ABOUT THE CAPITAL?

THAT BRAT OF AN EMPEROR SEEMS TO HAVE HALF HIS MIND ON OBTAINING OUR DISCIPLES AS TOYS FOR HIS ENTERTAINMENT
QIAN NING FEARS THAT WE ARE CONTENDING AGAINST HIM FOR THE EMPEROR'S FAVOR.
AND PERSONALLY CAME TO TRY AND SCARE ME OFF USING THE JINYIWEI* AS A THREAT

*T/N: JINYIWEI IS THE NAME OF THE EMPEROR'S MILITARY SECRET POLICE


THINGS ARE EVEN MORE APPARENT NOW, HAVING BEEN VERIFIED BY VICE-HEADMASTER SHI'S INFORMATION
BESIDES, WE'D ALREADY ANTICIPATED THAT THE JINYIWEI WOULD BE MONITORING WUDANG'S ACTIVITIES RIGHT FROM THE START
BUT ALLOWING INFORMATION LIKE THIS TO SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE, LURING ALL THE SECTS INTO ONE PLACE,
STARTING A BIG FIGHT IN THE NAME OF CAPTURING OUR HEADMASTER, JUST WHAT COULD THEIR AGENDA BE?
THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
NEWS OF THE HEADMASTER'S VISIT TO GUANZHONG WAS ABLE TO SPREAD SO WIDE AND SO FAST
IT MUST HAVE BEEN BECAUSE THE IMPERIAL COURT WAS BEHIND IT.

mangapanda

mangapanda

HE MUST HAVE SOME OTHER HIDDEN MOTIVE BEYOND OUR GRASP FOR DOING SO.
QIAN NING THAT BASTARD, HE SHOULD HAVE IGNORED THIS INCIDENT IF HE WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT US CONTENDING AGAINST HIM AS THE EMPEROR'S FAVORITE,
AS OPPOSED TO RAISING SUCH AN UNNECESSARY FUSS AND CAPTURING THE EMPEROR'S ATTENTION. .
ONE OTHER THING...
HOW DID THE JINYIWEI OBTAIN THEIR INFORMATION? THE ONLY ONES WHO KNEW THAT THE HEADMASTER LEFT THE MOUNTAIN...

"The Imperial Court has a spy in the Wudang Sect" – this is no small matter

...WERE THE PEOPLE ON MOUNT WUDANG

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IT'S NOT AT ALL SURPRISING THAT THE IMPERIAL COURT HAS A MOLE IN MOUNT WUDANG.
IF I WAS IN QIAN NING OR JIANG BIN'S SHOES I WOULD BE DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HAVE ONE OR TWO MOLES IN HERE AS WELL.
WHAT I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT IS...

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT EITHER.
AFTER ALL, WE ARE ALL COMPANIONS WORKING HARD TOGETHER DAY IN AND DAY OUT

Him.
TO INVESTIGATE ANYONE WHO HAS HAD ANY FORM OF RELATIONS WITH HIM.
I'M ABOUT TO GIVE FANZONG AN ORDER,
Wudang Sect's biggest traitor - that Vice Headmaster

Ever since the peril he encountered during the Battle of Xi'an, Yao Lianzhou has acknowledged his inexperience in handling Jianghu affairs, and that he should heed more of Shi Xinghong's and Ye Chen Yuan's advice
HEADMASTER, PLEASE HANDLE THIS MATTER WITH UTMOST CARE AND PRUDENCE. WE SHOULD FIRST VERIFY WHETHER OR NOT THE IMPERIAL COURT REALLY HAS TIES WITH 'HIM'.
DO NOT BE TOO HASTY IN TRYING TO SNIFF OUT THE TRAITOR, OTHERWISE THE TRUTH MAY NEVER COME TO LIGHT
That goes without saying for man. They would never submit, no matter how mighty or powerful their foe. This is the way they shall seek truth and enlightenment beneath the great heavens.
Wudang's great ambition was laid down from Master Gong Sunqing's era. His successor Yao Lianzhou is determined to accomplish that goal within his generation
No one can stop them. The Three Commandments of Wudang have clearly stated that no matter god o demon, any and all that gets in their way have to be eliminated.
This is Wudang.
manga panda

格格！
DO YOU KNOW OF A BOY CALLED YAN HENG?
SO XIAOLIU IS STILL ALIVE!
But what would he think when he finds out that I've decided to join Wudang?
WE... GREW UP TOGETHER WE ALSO ENTERED QINGCHENG SECT AT THE SAME TIME.
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manga panda

WHAT KIND OF A PERSON WAS HE WHEN HE WAS ON MOUNT QINGCHENG?
And now in Wudang Sect, during his first audience with Headmaster Yan, the person that the Headmaster concerns himself with is Xiaolu and not him.
In Qingcheng, Xiaolu was the first one to receive the Zushang's blessing and be promoted to the status of a 'True Disciple' in their year, not him.
Hou Yingzhi suppressed the urge to reveal even a hint of his slighted pride on his face.
HE IS QINGCHENG SECT'S YOUNGEST EVER 'TRUE DISCIPLE'.
Am I really so inferior compared to him?
!!

mangapanda

I BELIEVE THAT THE MAIN REASON WHY HE ZISHENG WAS SO EAGER TO BREAK TRADITION AND PROMOTE YAN HENG
WAS BECAUSE THE OTHER DISCIPLES IN OUR GENERATION WERE LACK-LUSTER AND MEDIOCRE.
THAT BEING SAID, HE TRULY WAS A TALENTED SWORDSMAN.
THAT'S SOME-THING THAT I KNOW FIRST HAND AFTER BEING BY HIS SIDE FOR SO MANY YEARS
ACTUALLY MY OWN ABILITIES ARE NOT THAT MUCH LOWER THAN XIAOLIU'S-
CONTINUE.

I REMEMBER ONCE HE ACTUALLY ASKED ME, "FOR WHAT REASON DO WE PRACTICE MARTIAL ARTS?"
"WHAT DO WE DO AFTER WE BECOME STRONG?" HE WAS PRONE TO ASKING DUMB QUESTIONS LIKE THESE.
THE THING IS HIS PERSONALITY IS TOO SOFT AND HE IS FAR TOO CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS.
SOMETIMES HE WOULD ASK QUESTIONS UNFITTING OF A MARTIAL ARTIST.
AND HE'S NEVER BEEN ALL THAT CONFIDENT ABOUT HIM-

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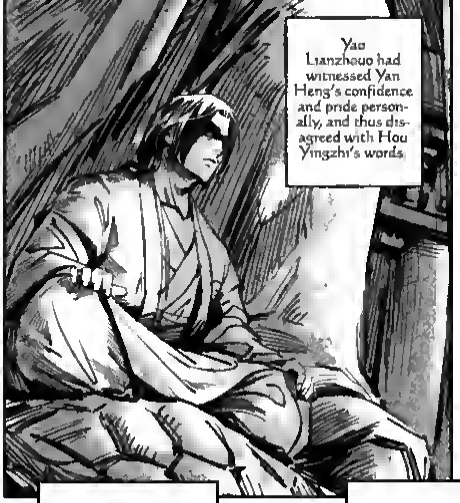
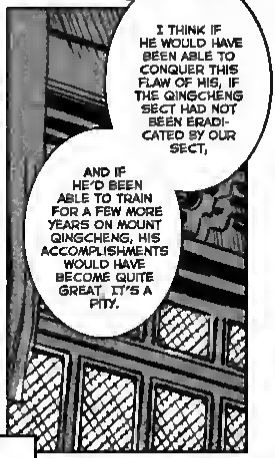

Yao Lianzhou had witnessed Yan Heng's confidence and pride personally, and thus disagreed with Hou Yingzhi's words.


I THINK IF HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONQUER THIS FLAW OF HIS, IF THE QINGCHENG SECT HAD NOT BEEN ERADICATED BY OUR SECT,
AND IF HE'D BEEN ABLE TO TRAIN FOR A FEW MORE YEARS ON MOUNT QINGCHENG, HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS WOULD HAVE BECOME QUITE GREAT. IT'S A PITY.

Had the Qingcheng Sect survived till today, he might have become an unremarkable nobody that Yao Lianzhou wouldn't even so much glance at.

The hardship he endured in these short few months after the Qincheng Sect was destroyed had completely changed him

Even if Yan Heng really was as soft a person as Hou Yingzhi had described back when he was on Mount Qincheng.

I ONLY ASKED YOU WHAT YOU KNEW OF HIM, I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO GUESS AT HIS FUTURE FOR
The more intrepid a martial artist, the more the heavens would bestow upon him adversaries and challenges – this was something that Yao Lianzhou firmly believed in.

I'm the Wudang disciple, not him! I'm the one that you should be concerned about!
Why do you hold him instead in higher regard?
Why?
NO.
WHICH MUST MEAN THAT YAN HENG ONLY MET HIS INTERESTING COMPANIONS AFTER LEAVING MOUNT QINGCHENG.
THEN DO YOU KNOW OF JING LIE, TONG JING AND DAOJIN HU LINGLAN?
YES.
YOU ARE DISMISSED.
Fate like that only served to prove to Yao Lianzhou that his outlook on destiny was correct.

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On any other day, Yao Lianzhou would have been quite curious about this Hou Yingzhi, who had so eagerly joined Wudang in the aftermath of the eradication of his original sect.

Today is definitely the worst day I've had since I arrived at Mount Wudang

But Yao Lianzhou's mind was preoccupied with more pressing people and events, and so he overlooked Hou Yingzhi.

No.
DEVOTING MYSELF TO WUDANG SECT IN ORDER TO LEARN THE HIGHEST FORM OF SWORDSMANSHIP IS THE PATH THAT I'VE CHOSEN...AND IT IS THE CORRECT ONE.
AS LONG AS I KEEP PRACTICING PATIENTLY AND DILIGENTLY, MY FUTURE WILL DEFINITELY SHINE BRIGHTER THAN XIAOLIU'S!
FIVE, TEN YEARS DOWN THE ROAD, THE GREATEST SWORDSMAN IN THE WHOLE OF WUJIN* WILL BE ME, HOU YINZHI!!

*T/N: WUJIN IS ANOTHER TERM FOR JIANGHU

Wudang
Disciple
Dormitory

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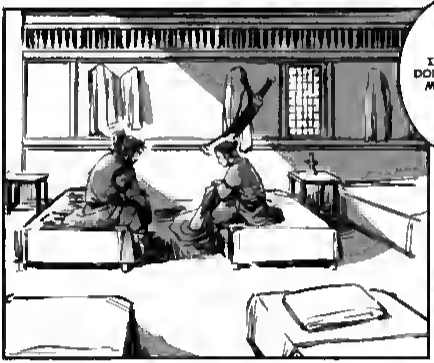
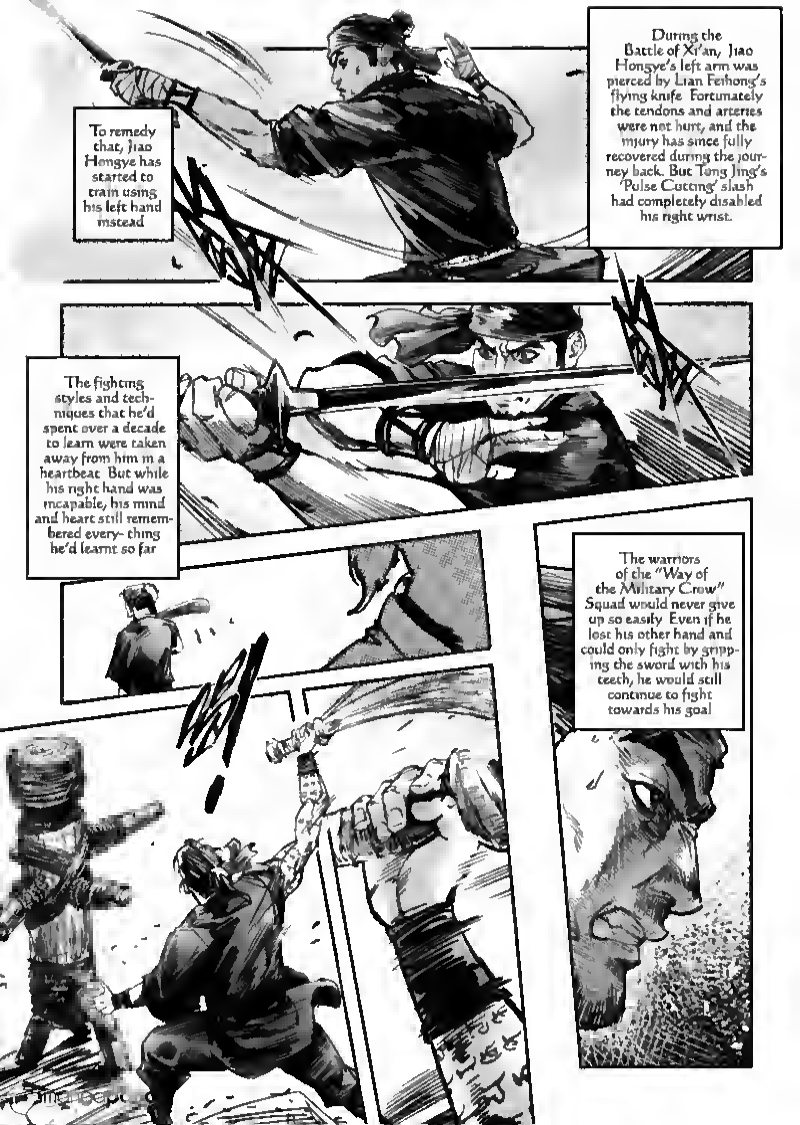


I'VE TALKED TO VICE HEAD-MASTER SHI, AND HE'S GIVEN HIS APPROVAL.
FINISHED.
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE NO LONGER A PART OF THE "WAY OF THE CONQUERING TURTLE" SQUAD. INSTEAD YOU'LL BE FIGHTING ON THE FRONTLINE AS PART OF THE "WAY OF THE MILITARY CROW" SQUAD - AS MOST BEFITTING OF YOUR PERSONALITY.
This uniform is the same color as brothers'.
I shall inherit his unfulfilled wish.
THIS IS...

I COULDN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF THE MISERABLE FACE YOU KEPT MAKING DURING THE JOURNEY A SECOND LONGER.
GO QUICKLY.
THANK YOU.
Xingyang Martial Court
The expeditionary army led by Ye Chengyuan to Sichuan had yet to return, and the number of disciples training today was only half the usual amount.


During the Battle of Xi'an, Jiao Hongye's left arm was pierced by Lian Feihong's flying knife. Fortunately the tendons and arteries were not hurt, and the injury has since fully recovered during the journey back. But Tang Jing's 'Pulse Cutting' slash had completely disabled his right wrist.
To remedy that, Jiao Hongye has started to train using his left hand instead
The fighting styles and techniques that he'd spent over a decade to learn were taken away from him in a heartbeat. But while his right hand was incapable, his mind and heart still remembered every- thing he'd learnt so far
The warriors of the "Way of the Military Crow" Squad would never give up so easily. Even if he lost his other hand and could only fight by gripping the sword with his teeth, he would still continue to fight towards his goal

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In the months since returning to Mount Wudang, not a day has gone by where Xi Xiaoyan has not thought about his fight with Jing Lie.
Ah!
If only I'd listened to brother's words back then...
His brother's killer had been standing right in front of him, but not only had he botched a prime opportunity to kill Jing Lie, he'd almost let his enemy throw him to his death
YOU'LL BE AT A DISADVANTAGE IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT IN CLOSE COMBAT PROPERLY.
IF THE ENEMY MANAGES TO BREACH YOUR DEFENSE,

TWIST THE BACK OF YOUR FIST TO FACE INWARDS.
Xi Xiaoyan is practicing his late brother's favorite technique, the 'Two Forms-Hook Punch', and is well on his way to fully mastering it.

YES!
AS LONG AS I MASTER THE "TWO FORMS-HOOK PUNCH" FOR MY LEFT FIST AND COUPLE IT WITH SWORD WORK TECHNIQUES ON MY RIGHT, I'LL BE ABLE TO COMPENSATE FOR MY LACKING CLOSE COMBAT TECHNIQUES.
NO... THAT JING LIE FELLOW CAN SNEAK EVEN FURTHER IN!
THE "TWO FORMS-HOOK PUNCH" IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO DEAL WITH HIM...
I NEED SOMETHING ELSE.

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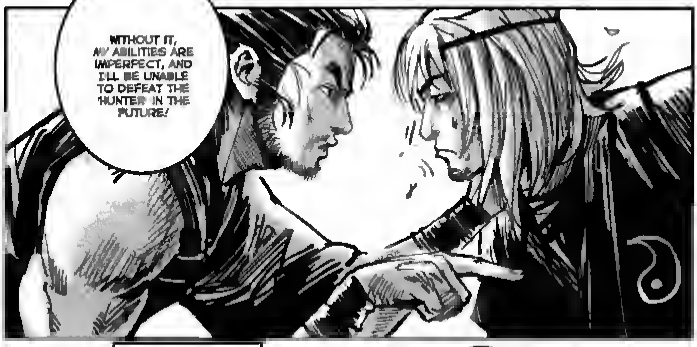
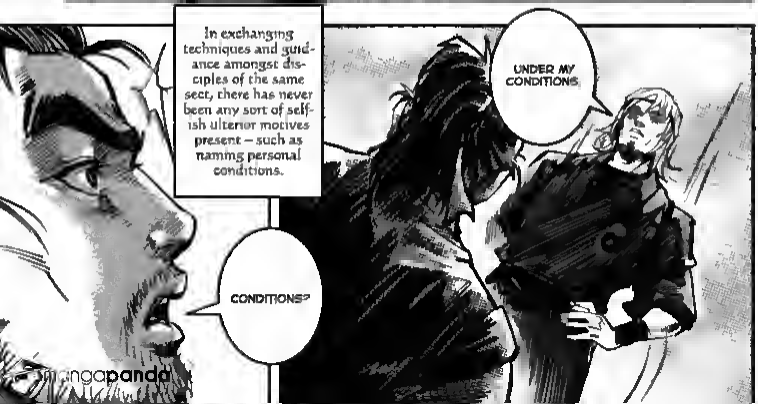
The 'Cross Parting' punch dealt by Yuanxing the Shaolin monk was so powerful, Shang Silang's internal injuries still haven't fully recovered. Heavy breathing causes him pain, and he is only able to lightly go about practising his techniques

CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME POINTERS ON THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE TAIJI STYLE?


WITHOUT IT, MY ABILITIES ARE IMPERFECT, AND I'LL BE UNABLE TO DEFEAT THE HUNTER IN THE FUTURE!


In exchanging techniques and guidance amongst disciples of the same sect, there has never been any sort of selfish ulterior motives present – such as naming personal conditions.
UNDER MY CONDITIONS.
CONDITIONS?

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I WANT TO BE ABLE TO GREET THAT SHAOLIN BALDIE WITH A STRONGER PUNCH THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM.
YOU'LL ALSO HAVE TO GIVE ME SOME POINTERS ON THE YANGJI STYLE.
OF COURSE!
IT'S SETTLED THEN!

mangapanda

It was a pity that Headmaster Yao had sworn a five-year armistice before the whole of Wulin
That is to say, no matter how fast Xi Xiaoyan trained himself, his next battle with Jing Lie would only take place five years later
The two men have set their minds to their goals... the next time they meet their foes, the emboss on their uniform would be that of a whole and complete Taiji symbol...
SIGH! OUT OF IT! LET'S GET STARTED IMMEDIATELY!
I have to see her again. No matter what

This chance to enter Zhenxian Hall and watch the Wudang Headmaster train is beyond the dreams of countless people.
But Yin Xiaoyan was starting to regret her stubborn decision in following him all the way here.
Sitting beneath the big statue of a god only made her more acutely aware of her own insignificance.
As spacious as Mount Wudang was, there was no place for her here
OUR MEETING WAS NOT A COINCIDENCE.

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Despite simultaneously practicing and talking, Yao Lianzhou wasn't out of breath. It is clear that his body has fully recovered since the poisoning incident.
THERE WAS A REASON WHY I STAYED AT A BROTHEL IN XI'AN.
YOUR MASTER?
I VISITED THEBROTHEL BECAUSE I WAS THINKING OF MY MASTER
WHEN I WAS 16, MY MASTER BROUGHT ME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN, AND WE RODE TOWARDS GUCHENG
WE ENTERED THE LARGEST BROTHEL IN THE CITY.

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HE USED HIS OWN SILVER AND BOUGHT ME THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL THERE
THAT WAS WHEN I HAD MY FIRST TASTE OF WOMEN.
MASTER DID THAT TO STEEL MY HEART AGAINST THE TEMPTATION OF WOMEN.
HE TOLD ME A MARTIAL ARTIST SHOULD NEVER SUBMIT HIMSELF TO ANYTHING, NOT EVEN TO THE LOVE OF A WOMAN.
ALL THESE YEARS I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE MEANING BEHIND HIS WORDS BECAUSE I'VE NEVER MET A WOMEN THAT I ACTUALLY LIKED.
OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY I'D NEVER MET A WOMAN THAT I'D HOPE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH
UNTIL NOW
I'M NOT GOOD AT EXPRESSING MY FEELINGS TOWARDS YOU.
NO ONE HERE HAS EVER TAUGHT ME THAT

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ON OUR WAY BACK, I HAD ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND TO BRING YOU ALONG WITH ME.
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I COULD POSSIBLY GIVE YOU WHEN I CAME BACK, NOR DID I KNOW WHAT YOUR HEART WAS THINKING — WHICH WAS WHY I ASKED YOU THE QUESTION IN SUCH A ROUNDABOUT MANNER.
THANKFULLY, YOU CHOSE TO FOLLOW ME HERE.
JUST NOW YOU SAW ALL THOSE DISCIPLES OUTSIDE... YOU SHOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD HOW HEAVY MY BURDEN IS, AND JUST HOW MANY PEOPLE'S7 LIVES AND HOPES RIDE ON MY SHOULDERS

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The greatest men are often the most selfish.
But loving someone entailed that you had to love all of him – the good and the bad.
I CAN'T PROMISE THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU MUCH. YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO SEE ME OFTEN.
BUT I STILL, VERY MUCH, WANT YOU TO STAY BY MY SIDE.
Like how Yao Lianzhou only just understood his Master Gong Sunqing's words, Xiaoyan's only just understood Shuqiao's words as her.
Rather than trying to dissuade her those words were actually spoken out of envy – Shuqiao, who'd experienced a great many things in life, was envious of the way Xiaoyan could so easily fall in love with a man without worrying about consequences.
Even if said man was unable to bring her happiness, the level of courage she needed to love Yao Lianzhou was on par with the ambitious desire of the Wudang Sect to utterly dominate Wu

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武道者之誌
【第六十五章】
征途
Chapter 65
Journey

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JIEJIE...*

JIEJIE...

Jiejie, why... how could you love a man like that?

*JIEJIE - BIG SISTER. USED FOR BLOOD RELATIVE, "BIG SISTERS" AS WELL AS WOMEN WITH WHOM THE SPEAKER HAS A CLOSE RELATION !!!

Jiejie, look... He's the one who crippled my shoulder like this!

Didn't you come to Ming Gu** to take revenge on him?

**MING GU: VALLEY OF FATE

YOU WULANG

Only being able to use one hand...
Even committing seppuku*...
*1. TO SUICIDE BY DISEMBOWELING ONESELF
Ghh_
I CAN'T STAND THIS HUMILIATION ANY LONGER! HE DID THIS TO ME!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ?!

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Everyone knows that the one you like is Brother Jing.
Everyone knows. Then, does he also know?
But he has never once indicated anything to me...

After the battle of Xi'an, Hu Lingtian was even more acutely aware of Jing Lie's goals of self-improvement and how difficult and dangerous the path he chose to pursue it was
Does a man so consumed by his goals even have room in his heart for a woman?

Even for a woman like me?

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I, Duojin Hu Linglan, have never suffered defeat from a man
I travelled west, to the Central Plains, in order to defeat this man and avenge my younger brother
If he does not love me back, then what reason do I have to stay?
Am I reluctant to leave because of my friendship with Tang Jing and Yan Heng?
Or is it because I no longer have a place to return to?
Hu Linglan stole travel documents, boarded a ship and left without telling her father. It was an outrageous act and made it impossible for her to return to Satsuma.

Does he even need me?
...She wished from the bottom of her heart for Jing Lie to tell her.

She didn't know the answer but couldn't bring herself to ask Jing Lie directly.
If she did, that would mean admitting defeat.
Could it be the spirit of You Wulang telling me that I shouldn't be chasing after a man who has no feelings for

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Lian Feihong only used half of his strength and substituted his weapon for a whip, in order to train Yan Heng
What was difficult in this was that Yan Heng had to follow Lian Feihong's commands as to which hand he could use to parry the whip, regardless of which direction it came from.
In addition to following Lian Feihong's random, arrhythmic orders, Yan Heng had to make sure to properly parry the whip. This was exponentially more difficult than when Yan Heng could freely use his sword as he wished
However, in order to be able to use both swords together, each sword must be commanded as if with a separate mind. Yan Heng had to endure such training.

Yan Heng had to concentrate on each stroke of his sword. His strength depleted at a rate similar to that of a real battle.
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
Though Yan Heng's clothes were soaked through, his expression showed no trace of exhaustion; on the contrary, he seemed exhilarated.
Despite Lian Feihong fighting only at half-strength, he too felt slightly fatigued due to his age.

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YOU SPARRED WELL.
It was the joy of realizing his own progress
He learned various, brand new skills from Sir Feihong. He also gained battle experience from Xi'an, allowing his dual swords manship to progress by leaps and bounds
However, he still had a long way to go before mastering the "Male Female Dragon Tiger Sword."
Especially because the Kongtong Sect arts specialized in dual wielding weapons. Alternating between left and right hand involved flourishes that confused the opponent's vision and mind, resulting in victory
Yan Heng benefited greatly from training under Sir Feihong these past four months
OK... NOW IT'S YOUR TURN GO AND TEACH HER
REMEMBER, TEACH HER EVERYTHING I'VE TAUGHT YOU...
THANK YOU, ELDER!

Yes...
COME ON, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LEARN A NEW TECHNIQUE.
DID YOU FORGET WHAT BROTHER JING SAID TO YOU IN CHENGDU, ON THE FIRST DAY HE TOOK YOU IN?
YOU LEARN WHATEVER WE TEACH. NO QUESTIONS ASKED. IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE.
THE STUFF YOU'RE TEACHING ME IS ALL FROM YOUR QINGCHENG SECT, YEAH?
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However, for now, nothing was more important to her than learning swordsmanship
Tong Jing was intelligent and had already seen through the "conspiracy" between Lian Feihong, Jing Ke, and Yan Heng.
THEN COME ON! I'LL BE TEACHING YOU A NEW MOVE TODAY.

However, no matter how hard she practiced, not once was she able to reproduce it
But she knew that the goal she was aiming for was not that far away
The memory of that frighteningly fast sword at Yinghua Inn ran through her mind ceaselessly.

—She also knew that she had the potential to reach that goal
As long as I train even harder than before, I will be able to recreate that move
Then I'll keep reproducing it a second time, a third time, until I can reproduce it at will.
The new technique Tong Jing was learning was the Kongtong Sect's novice technique, "15 Hand Training Sword."
...Fine! I'll learn my fill of your techniques, but don't hold your breath waiting for me to call you "Master!"
Whi!
Whi!

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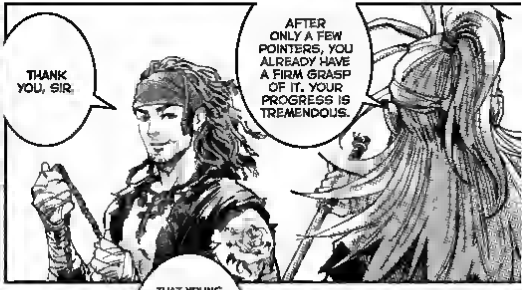
GOOD! YOUR DAGGER THROWING TECHNIQUE H AS IMPROVED A LOT.

BROTHER JING'S NATURAL TALENTS FOR THE MARTIAL ARTS IS REALLY IMPRESSIVE!

SIR, LOOK.


THANK YOU, SIR.
AFTER ONLY A FEW POINTERS, YOU ALREADY HAVE A FIRM GRASP OF IT. YOUR PROGRESS IS TREMENDOUS.

THAT YOUNG MAN IS FRANK, OUTSPOKEN AND LEARNS THINGS WITH GREAT DEDICATION THOSE ARE GOOD TRAITS
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS GUY, YAN HENG?

THE DUAL SWORDS TECHNIQUE FOCUSES ON MULTITASKING, SUPPRESSING YOUR OPPONENT IN BOTH OFFENSE AND DEFENSE.
HOWEVER, IF HE WANTS TO MASTER THE DUAL SWORDS TECHNIQUE, HE MUST CHANGE HIS TEMPERAMENT A BIT.
IS THAT WHY ELDER IS ALWAYS TEACHING HIM THOSE FLOWERY, DANCE-LIKE DUAL SWORDS TECHNIQUES?
ALTERNATING BETWEEN LEFT AND RIGHT HANDS TO CONFUSE THE OPPONENT. A MORE METICULOUS AND COMPLEX MIND IS NEEDED TO TRULY MASTER IT.
THOSE PARLOR TRICKS DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH USE IN COMBAT!
I'M JUST DOING THIS TO OPEN HIS MIND
This is why Sir Feikong really is a good instructor.
JING LIE, YOU ON THE OTHER HAND ARE EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE.
HOWEVER, UNTIL YOU ARE ABLE TO FULLY INTEGRATE ALL THAT YOU'VE LEARNED, YOU NEVER CEASE TO INDULGE YOUR CURIOSITY IN NEW TECHNIQUES
IF YOU CONTINUE ON LIKE THIS, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH THE PINNACLE THAT YOU AIM FOR. YOU'LL JUST BECOME A JACK OF ALL TRADES AND MASTER OF NONE.
YOU HAVE A GREAT NATURAL TALENT FOR LEARNING, A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE, AND A BROAD AND VARIED REPERTOIRE.

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In order to defeat his technique that day, you went to great lengths, drawing upon countless tactics, taking advantage of the terrain. Yet you were barely able to win against him.
Xi Xiaojian is one who focuses on honing his "Mighty Sun Blade/Yangji Blade" technique to the utmost perfection.
In a few years, Xi Xiaojian's "Mighty Sun Blade/Yangji Blade" technique will no doubt be on a completely different level, at that time. Who knows if you'll still be able to defeat him then.
JUST LIKE ME.
YOU MUST TAKE ALL YOU'VE LEARNED, AND TRULY REFINE IT INTO YOUR OWN MARTIAL ARTS.
THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO RISE TO A HIGHER PLANE.
HMM, IT'S A SHAME...
I ONLY CAME TO REALIZE THIS NOW, AT THIS AGE... WHEN IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE. . .
DON'T WALK DOWN THE SAME PATH AS I DID.

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This only caused Jing Lie the desire to elevate his martial arts to the next level

Jing Lie had never met as good a teacher as Pei Shi-shu until he met Lian Feihong

Lian Feihong's remarks seemed to be the complete opposite of what Pei Shiying taught, but in fact, there was no contradiction between the two

COME! BEFORE WE PART, QUICKLY TEACH ME AGAIN, SOME OF THOSE XINYI TECHNIQUES!

Even after reproaching himself for always greedily learning new techniques, it turns out the old tiger just couldn't bring himself to change his stripes

IF YOU FORCE YOURSELF TO TRAIN LIKE THAT, YOU'LL JUST INJURE YOURSELF!

REST A BIT.

*1/4 SHI-SHU IS WHAT YOU CALL A MAN IN YOUR MARTIAL ARTS SECT WHO IS FROM THE SAME GENERATION AS YOUR MASTER. ALL DISCIPLES WHO STUDY UNDER THE SAME MASTER ARE CONSIDERED "SIBLINGS/BROTHERS AND SISTERS." IN ESSENCE, THE MASTER'S OLDER BROTHER AND SISTER, OR SHI-XIONG/SHI-JIE, ARE CALLED SHI-BO; THE MASTER'S "YOUNGER BROTHER AND SISTER," OR SHI-TE/SHI-MEI, IT CALLED SHI-SHU.

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What...
am I doing...

...I almost
ended his
future as a
martial
artist...
I...

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ah!

This was the first time Jing Lie saw the tears of Hu Linglan

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BLOOD AND STEEL

Author: 喬壤夫 > Jozev
Manhua by 夢馬工作室 > Unicorn Studios
Comic Design > Felix Ip
Script: Toe Yuen

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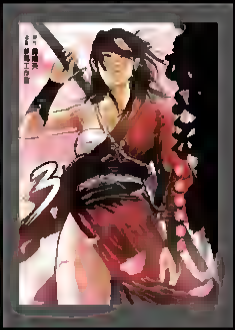

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「真正擁有共同志向的同伴，一個就夠了。
如今，又多了一個。」
武藏派在福吳許下五年「不傳之約」，
荒廢和其精神失去約代制裁，
兵法技藝及重組機構上完成傳承之旅；
維新鎮門鎮組紅天心組成新勢力
衣鉢傳人，亦加入組織。

佔領織織山的織辰酒，
以何自處一戰為生涯總敵，
本已經歷武道上求續之志，
卻意外感得青城派前的奧妙，
納志續戰！

增技投術的權美若入門短淺，
但鎮門旅遊的回續機關術上百見他，
有所領悟？

狼派武俠漫畫・第二部
【破・門六劍篇】
新的修行之旅，起步！

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武道坊之詩
Chapter 66
Monitoring

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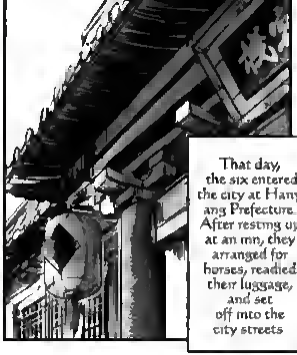
That day, the six entered the city at Hanyang Prefecture. After resting up at an inn, they arranged for horses, readied their luggage, and set off into the city streets

Hanyang, located midway along the Yangtze River, was a business thoroughfare and a place to trade goods. The streets were bustling

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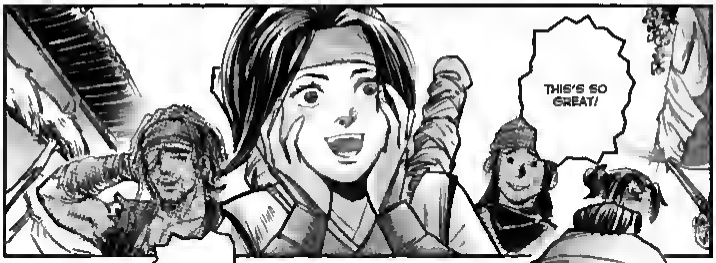

LOOK! THIS'S SO CUTE!
Yan Heng momentarily recalled the scene of him accompanying Song Li as they amused themselves in the town of Weijiang at the foothills of Mt. Qingcheng
Song Li would always coax him into buying some trinket for her.
I wonder if she's doing well?

DO YOU THINK THIS LOOKS LIKE ME?
LOOK!
WHO IS THAT?
YOUNG MAN, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT? THAT'S MULAN*! THE GIRL WHO TOOK HER FATHER'S PLACE IN THE ARMY!
HOW ABOUT I BUY IT FOR YOU?
Growing up in the Qingcheng Sect, Yan Heng had never heard of any of these popular legends, so naturally he didn't recognize her

*T/N: THE SAME MULAN AS THE HISTORICALLY INACCURATE HUA MULAN FROM THE DISNEY MOVIE.

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IT'S ALMOST DARK. WE NEED FIND A PLACE TO EAT.
LET'S GO.
Jing Lie asked passersby's for the city's most expensive restaurant, until they reached the "Hongyan Lou"
They had to hold a farewell dinner that night

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BROTHER DAI, I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'LL BE PARTING SO SOON
THIS IS FAR ENOUGH
IF I CONTINUE GOING SOUTH, WHO KNOWS HOW MANY MONTHS AND YEARS IT'LL BE BEFORE I RETURN TO SHANXI.

NOT REPORTING THE WHOLE EVENT TO MY MASTERS, TAGGING ALONG WITH YOU ALL TO TRAIN...
THAT DAY, AT THE BATTLE OF XI'AN, MY XINYI SECT SUFFERED GREAT CASUALTIES..
AS THE MOST SENIOR OF THE DIRECT DISCIPLES, NOT ACCOMPANYING MY JUNIORS' REMAINS BACK..
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO ON WITH FEELINGS OF NEGLECTING MY OBLIGATIONS TO MY SECT..
THIS TIME, IT WASN'T FOR MY OWN GAIN. IT WAS IN ORDER TO TAKE BACK WHAT I LEARNED AND TO HELP MY SECT CONFRONT WUDANG.
I DON'T THINK YOUR MASTER WOULD BLAME YOU.
BUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW IS ALSO FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUR SECT.
I'VE GOT TO INTEGRATE THESE NEW SKILLS INTO MY SECT'S TECHNIQUES THEN I'VE GOT TO TEACH THE NEW TECHNIQUES TO MY FELLOW DISCIPLES
SO IT'S TIME FOR ME TO RETURN.
BEFORE WE GO TO WAR WITH WUDANG, I STILL HAVE MUCH TO THINK ABOUT.
I'VE BENEFITED GREATLY FROM SENIOR LIAN, BROTHER JIN, AND EVERYONE ELSE'S GUIDANCE.
I'VE GOTTA THANK YOU AS WELL.

WITH THE XINYI SECT'S "TRIPLE BLADE" TECHNIQUE THAT YOU TAUGHT ME, I'M NOW ABLE TO REALLY USE MY BLADE TO ITS FULL POTENTIAL.
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE THE NEXT TIME I GO UP AGAINST THAT WEIRDO XI, I'LL BE ABLE TO DEFEAT HIM DECISIVELY.
.....
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THAT'S RIGHT! XINYI SECT TECHNIQUES EMPHASIZES THE UNION OF INTENT AND FORCE. IT'S SIMPLE AND STRONG AND QUITE A SUPERIOR ART FORM INDEED!
BROTHER JING, WHERE WILL YOU HEAD TO NEXT?
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF.

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AFTER ALL THOSE BATTLES, OUR WEAPONS HAVE BECOME VERY WORN DOWN
IT'S NOT JUST THIS BLADE.
IF WE DON'T FIND A BLADE MASTER TO SHARPEN THEM, THEY WILL PROBABLY BREAK SOON.
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN JUST TRUST THESE WEAPONS TO ANY OLD BLADE SHARPENER.
IF WE GAVE THESE TO SOME UNRELIABLE SHARPENER, OUR WEAPONS COULD BECOME RUINED, OR THEIR LIFESPANS COULD BE CUT DOWN.
ESPECIALLY YAN HENG'S "FEMALE MALE DRAGON TIGER SWORD," AN ORDINARY CRAFTSMAN WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE IT.
YOU'RE IN LUCK!
I'VE HEARD HIM SAY THERE'S A MASTER BLADE SHARPENER IN LULING, JIANGXI NAMED HAN SHIZI HIS SKILLS WITH A WHETSTONE ARE UNPARALLELED.
EVEN SENIOR YIN YINGCHUAN PERSONALLY JOURNEYED SOUTH TO ENTRUST THE MASTER WITH POLISHING UP HIS GREAT BAGUA BLADE, "SLICING MOON IN WATER."
THE BAGUA SECT HEADMASTER YIN YINGFENG'S CLANSMAN, SENIOR YIN YINGQI, CAME TO OUR HEADQUARTERS IN QI COUNTY A FEW YEARS AGO.
LULING IS IN WESTERN JIANGXI. IT'S A BIT OF A DISTANCE FROM HERE IN HANYANG.
BUT IT ISN'T TOO FAR OFF. BROTHER JING, WHY DON'T YOU ALL PAY HIM A VISIT?

Considering how haughty Yin Yingchuan was, Yan Heng was very curious to meet this Senior Han Shizi
GREAT! THEN I'LL GET THIS HAN SHIZI FELLOW TO SHARPEN ALL MY WEAPONS!
I'LL HAVE HIM SHARPEN ALL OF THEM IN ONE GO! THIS TRIP REALLY PAYED OFF!
BROTHER DAI, BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU SET OFF ON YOUR OWN TOMORROW.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ACTUALLY, EVER SINCE WE LEFT XI'AN, I'VE HAD THE FEELING THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOMEONE FOLLOWING US AND SPYING ON US.
THOUGH I CAN'T BE CERTAIN. THE FEELING COMES AND GOES, BUT I HAVE HAD IT OFTEN THESE FEW MONTHS.
If both Brother Jing and Senior Lan felt it, then the possibility that there is someone is following us has to be really high.
WHAT A COINCIDENT! I'VE ALSO HAD A FEW INSTANCES LIKE THAT! I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE MY SHIMEI* COMING TO DRAG ME BACK TO BE HEADMASTER...

*T/N: "LITTLE SISTER" IN YOUR MARTIAL ARTS "FAMILY."

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YOU GUYS, BROTHER DAI INCLUDED, ARE ALL THE STRAIGHTFORWARD TYPE.
I DIDN'T TELL YOU BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT YOU GUYS TO GET TENSE. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A CLEAR SIGN TO WHOEVER'S FOLLOWING US THAT WE HAD NOTICED THEM.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING SOONER, BROTHER JING?
NEVER LET YOUR ENEMIES FIND OUT HOW MUCH YOU KNOW. THAT COULD SAVE YOU IN CRUCIAL MOMENTS.
Though Dai Kui was older than Jing Lie by several years, Jing Lie's accomplishments in martial arts, and the complexity of his thoughts and actions surpassed those of Dai Kui's. This made Dai Kui's respect for Jing Lie grow.
IT'S STRANGE FOR THEM TO FOLLOW US FOR SO LONG.
AND SINCE WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWED SINCE XI'AN, THEY'VE GOT TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED THERE.
WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS, BROTHER JING?
THERE HAD TO BE SOMEONE MANIPULATING THINGS FROM BEHIND THE SCENES, AND IT WAS NO SMALL EFFORT ON THEIR PART...
HOW DID THE NEWS SPREAD SO FAR AND WIDE SO QUICKLY AS TO ALLOW EVERYONE FROM ALL THE MAJOR SECTS TO COME TAKE PART?
IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE THAN ONE OR TWO MONTHS WHEN YAO LIANZHOU ENTERED THE SCENE.

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IN THIS WORLD, SOMEONE WITH SUCH ENCOMPASSING EYES AND EARS.
IF IT'S NOT THE IMPERIAL COURT, THEN IT MUST BE A STAKEHOLDER OF THE COURT..
WHOEVER IT IS, I'M GUESSING THEY DON'T HAVE ANY MALICIOUS INTENT, FOR NOW. IF THEY DID, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE FOLLOWED US FOR SO LONG.
WHY WOULD SOMEONE FROM THE COURT GET CAUGHT UP IN MATTERS RELATED THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD?
BUT IT'D BE BEST IF BROTHER DAI WERE TO TAKE CAUTION
THERE IS NO NEED
SHOULD WE CONFRONT THE PERSON TAILING US AND ASK HIM?
THEY'LL REVEAL THEMSELVES TO US SOONER OR LATER, SINCE THEY WANT SOMETHING FROM US.

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HMPH! WHO SAYS I DON'T REMEMBER THE WAY?
EARLIER, ON OUR WAY, YOU ONLY FOCUSED ON HAVING FUN. DO YOU EVEN REMEMBER THE WAY?

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If my blade had gone just a bit deeper this afternoon, he would have lost an eye...
Why... would I...
HOW WOULD A JOURNEYING KAGOSHIMA SAMURAI TREAT HIS WIFE?

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I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER IT'LL LAST, MUCH LESS WHAT I COULD OFFER YOU.
BUT I—
I'M STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS LONG JOURNEY
DIEN!

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YOU THINK I'D SUBMIT TO YOU WITH JUST SOME SWEET WORDS?
WHAT DO YOU TAKE US DAOJIN WOMEN FOR?
I...
ARE... YOU PLAN-NING TO LEAVE?
...need you.
BUT I...
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I'M NOT LEAVING.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHY I CAME TO THE CENTRAL LANDS IN SEARCH OF YOU?

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IT WAS TO DEFEAT YOU! TO THOROU-GHLY DEFEAT YOU!
UNTIL THE DAY I SEE YOUR UTTERLY DEFEATED FACE IN FRONT OF ME, ADMITTING DEFEAT...
PERHAPS THEN I'LL TAKE PITY ON YOU, AND KEEP YOU AS MY WIFE...

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I'VE SAID IT BEFORE...
UNTIL THE DAY I DEFEAT YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS, THERE IS NO CHANCE THAT I AM GOING TO LET THOSE "WUDAN"* BASTARDS TAKE YOUR LIFE...

*T/N: SHE MISPRONOUNCES WUDANG BECAUSE SHE'S JAPANESE.

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